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- Trends and Figures
- Pakistan's Socioeconomic Landscape
- Regional Data Points & Projections
- Worldwide Economic Indicators & Insights

2024-25
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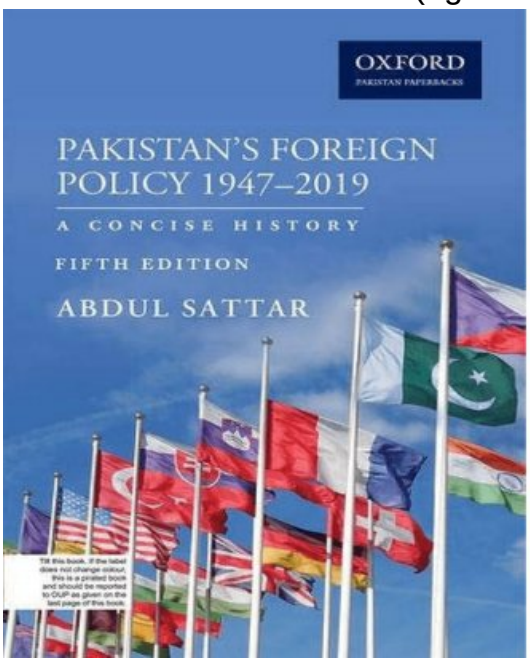

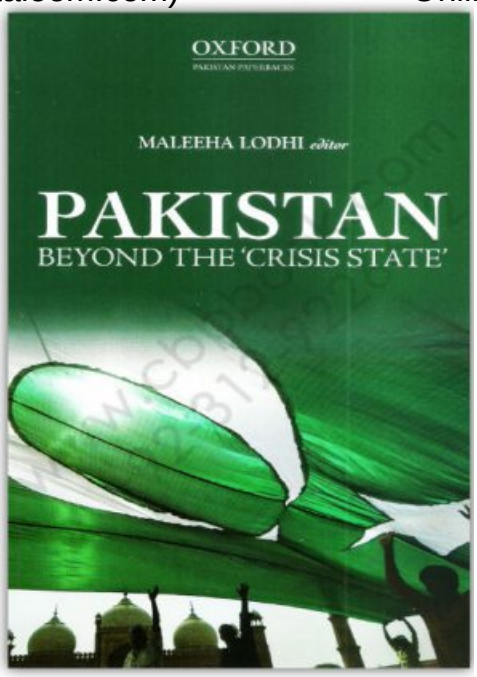

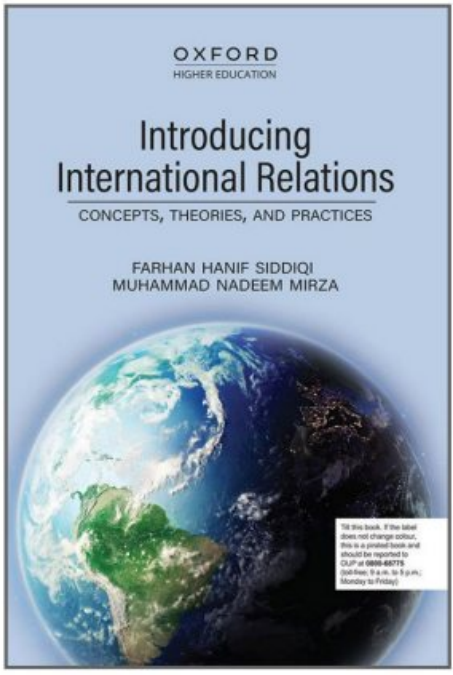

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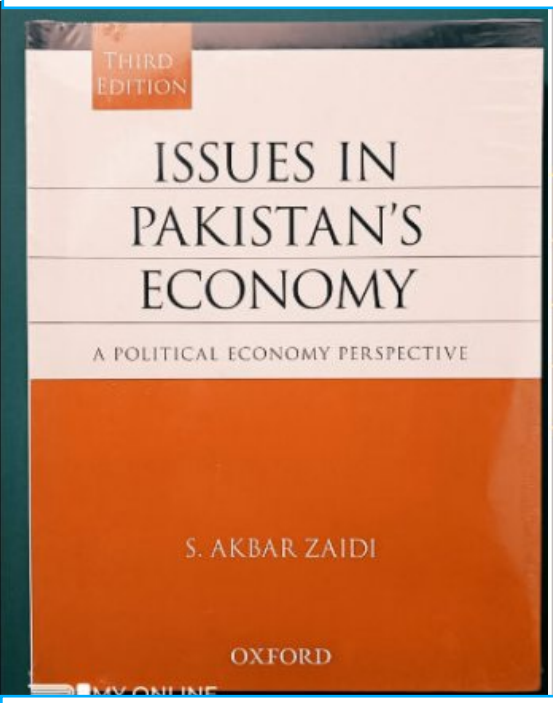

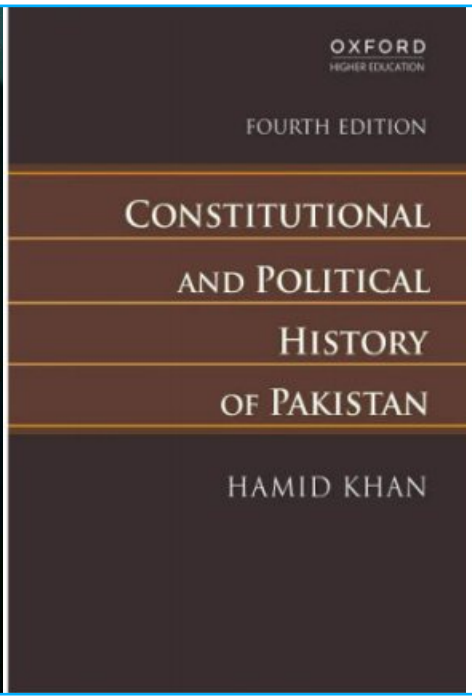

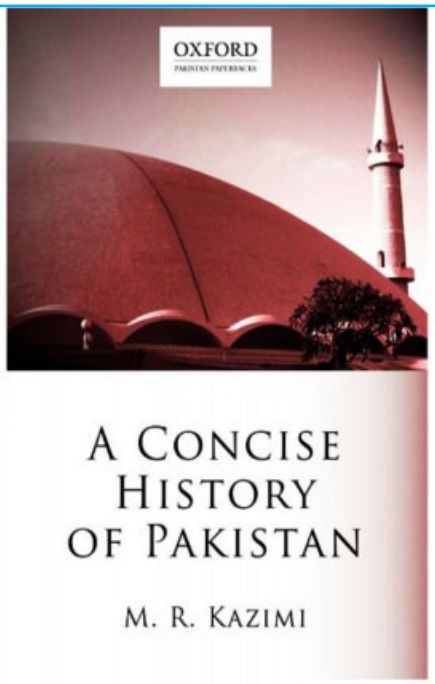

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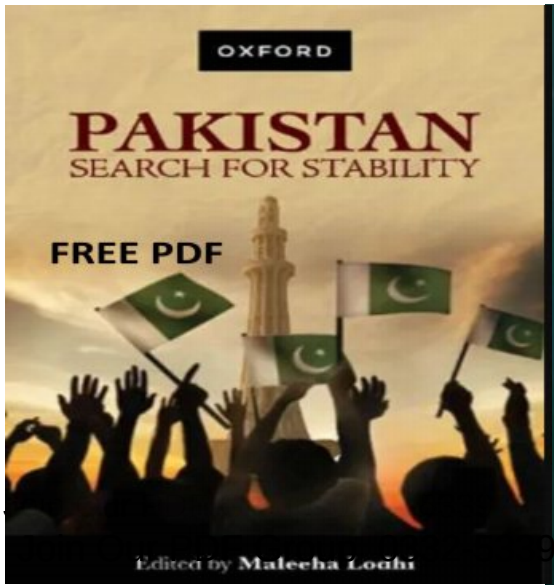

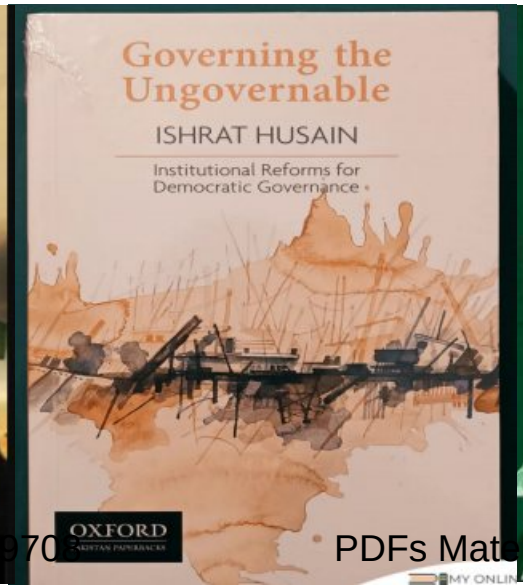

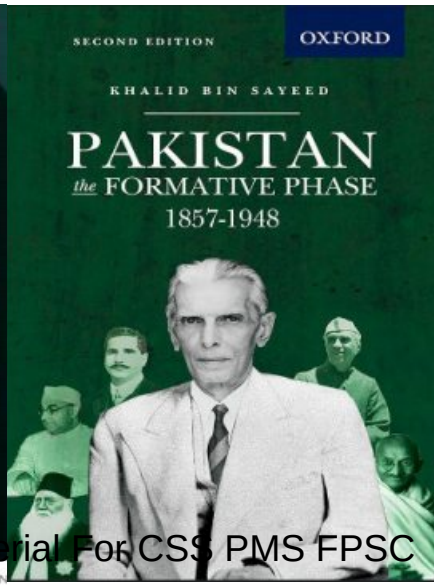

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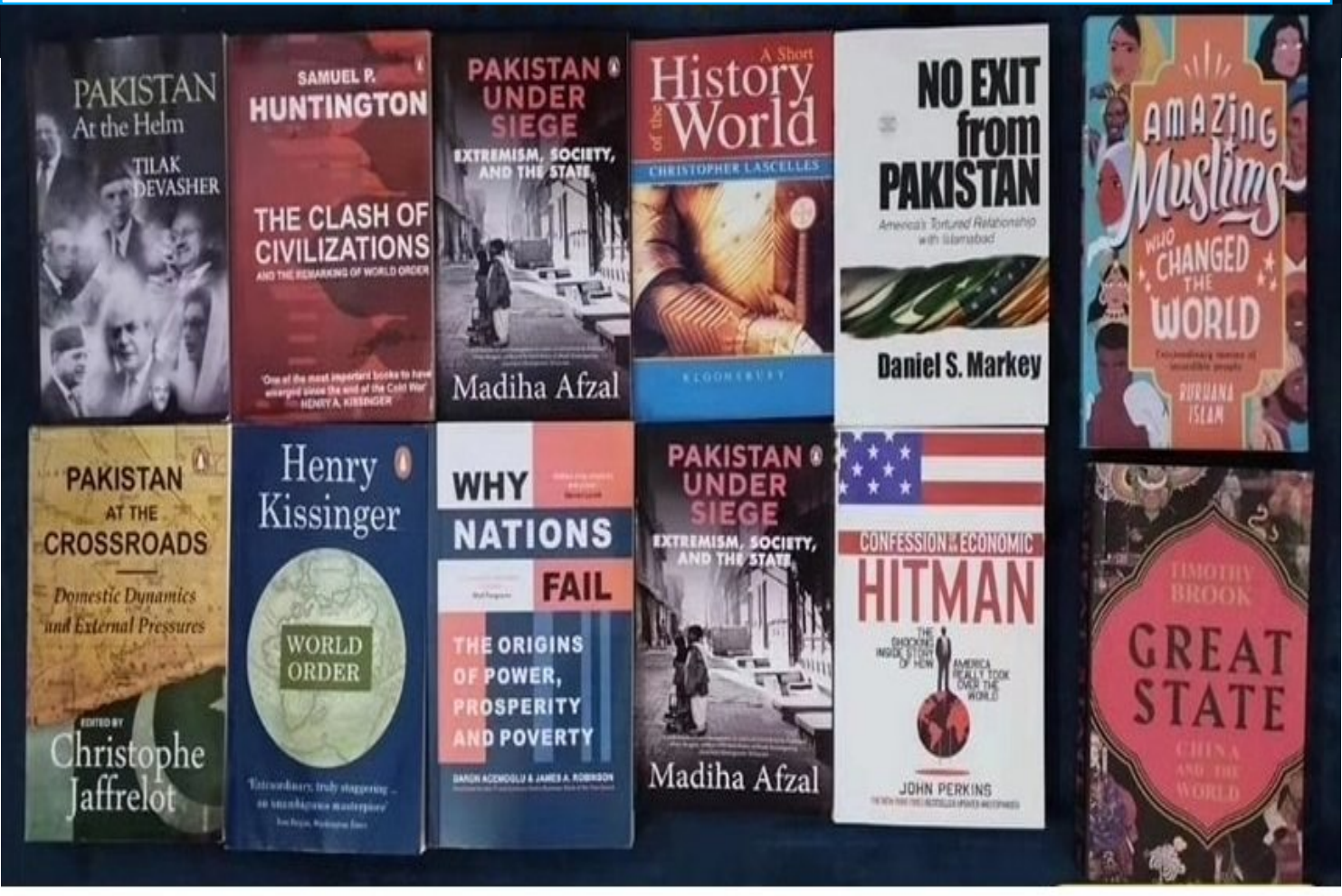

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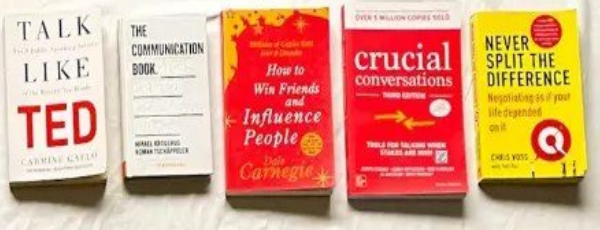

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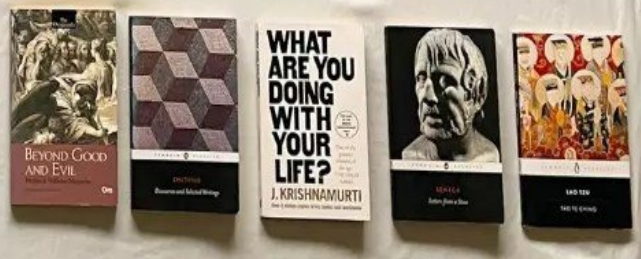

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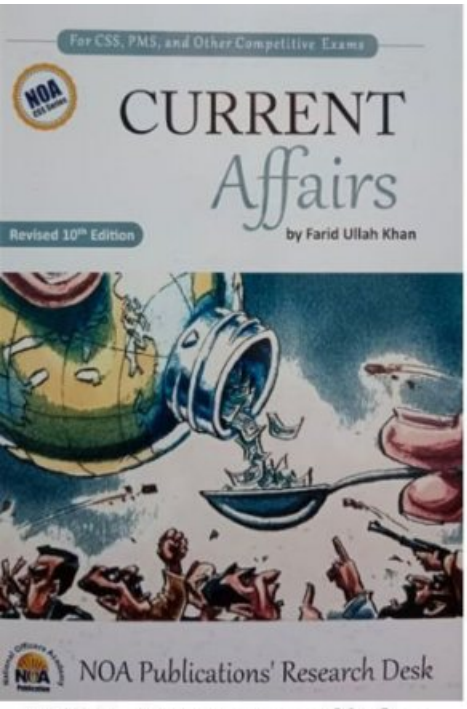

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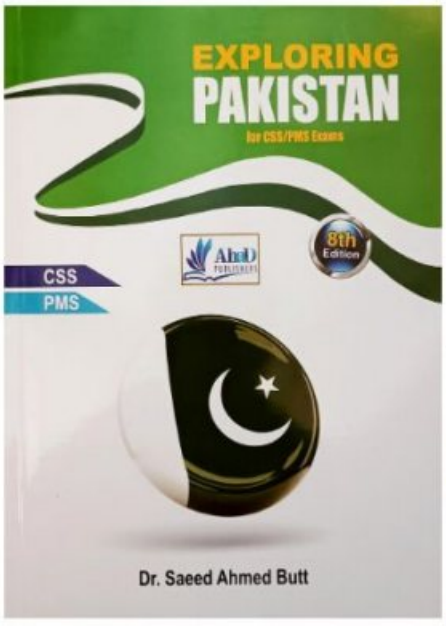

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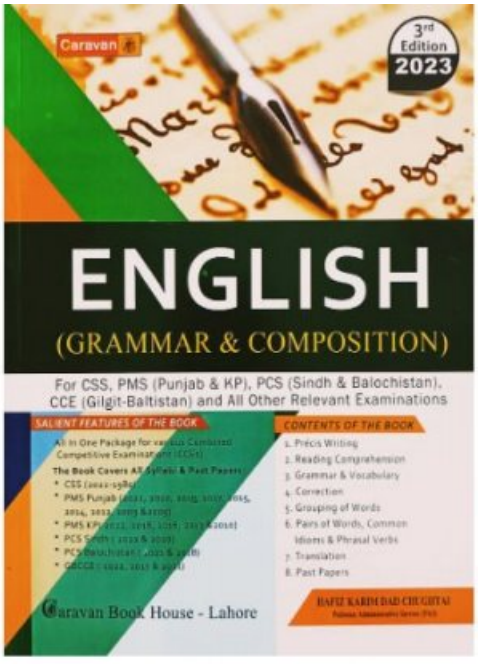

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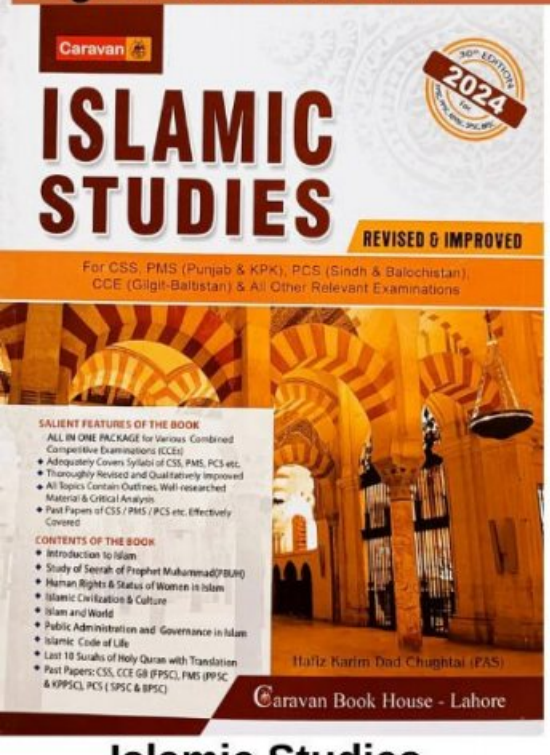

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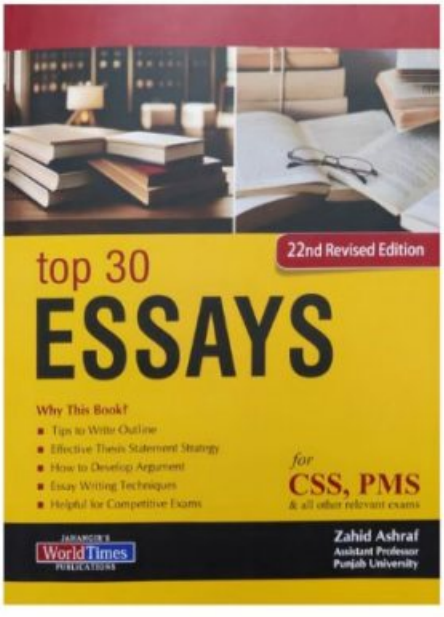

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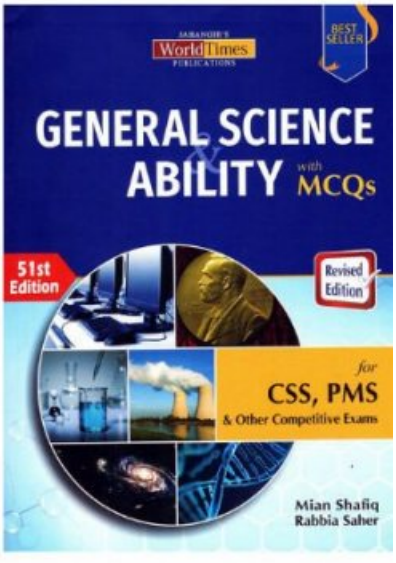

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PREFACE

As far as prospective CSS aspirants are concerned, the new syllabus for CSS exam seems challenging for them. This edition contains the fruits of writer's close study and extensive research. This book covers reports marked by facts and figures on Pakistan's domestic affairs including political, economic and social. Enough material has been presented on Pakistan's external affairs as well, including Pakistan's relations with neighbouring countries, MuslimWorld, regional and international organizations. Moreover, it also covers global issues, including human rights, global warming, global poverty, social media, international socio-political affairs and much more. In short, whole syllabus for CSS has been covered more or less in this new edition. Writer uses very translucent and lenient language to make the reader easy to understand current affairs. In fact, this book will prove to be of immense help and useful to the candidates appearing in various competitive exams.

The book cannot be claimed to be the best one, but it is hoped that it shall aid the aspirants in their study of current affairs.

It is also worth mentioning here that data for this book has been compiled from different books,websites, articles, and other sources.

Waseem Riaz Khan (PSP)

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THE FACT BOOK

CURRENT AFFAIRS PLUS

Candidates will be expected to display such general knowledge of history, politics and International Affairs, as deemed necessary to interpret current affairs.

I. Facts and Figures based Reports on Pakistan's Domestic Affairs

- Reports on Pakistan's Economic Affairs
- Reports on Pakistan's Political Affairs
- Reports on Pakistan's Social Affairs
- Technology
- Relevant Articles in Pakistan's Constitutionon Fundamental Human Rights
- General Facts about Pakistan

II. Regional Affairs

- Reports on Afghanistan Peace Process
- Reports on Regional Affairs
- Facts about South Asia

III. Facts and Reports on Global Issues

- Cyber Security Facts and Figures
- Climate Change
- Feminism
- General Global Statistics
- Global Affairs
- Global Poverty
- International Economy
- COVID-19
- Sustainable Development Goals
- United Nations Structure and Subsidiaries
- Technology
- Tourism
- International Terrorism
- Agreements signed in 2020-2021
- Kashmir Facts and Figures
- International Treaties signed by Pakistan

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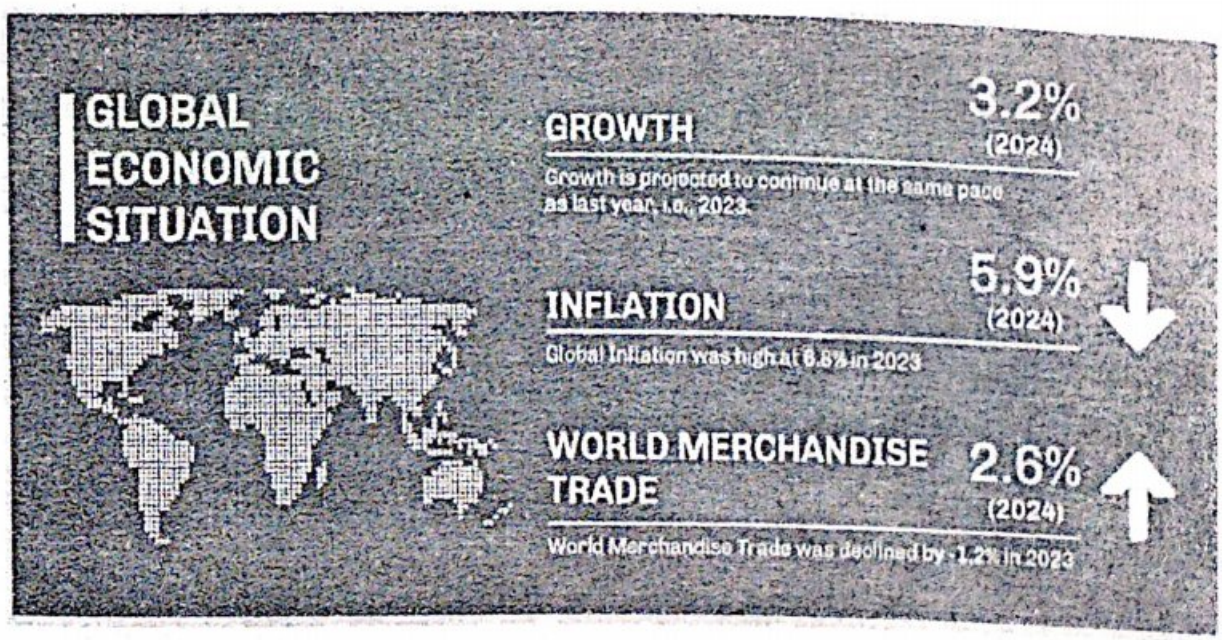
REPORTS ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BASED ON FACTS AND FIGURES



GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

KEY INDICATORS
FY2024

GDP Gowth	2.38% ↑
Agriculture	6.25% ↑
Industries	1.21% ↑
Services	1.21% ↑
Per Capita Income (US $)	1,680
Investment	13.1% (as % of GDP)
Savings	13.0% (as % of GDP)

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AGRICULTURE

KEY INDICATORS

GROWTH

Agriculture	6.25% ↑
Crops	11.03% ↑
Livestock	3.89% ↑
Forestry	3.05% ↑
Fishing	0.81% ↑

MANUFACTURING AND MINING

KEY INDICATORS

Jul-Mar FY2024

LSM Growth Rate	-0.1% ↓
Textile Growth	-8.3% ↓
Wearing Apparel	5.4% ↑
Furniture	23.1% ↑
Leather Product	5.3% ↑
Fertilizer	16.4% ↑
Pharmaceutical	23.2% ↑
Mining & Quarrying	4.9% ↑

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FISCAL DEVELOPMENT

KEY INDICATORS

Jul-Mar FY2024

Total Revenue (Rs. Trillion) 9.78	
Tax Revenues	29.3% ↑ Rs 7.26 tr
Non-Tax Revenues	90.7% ↑ Rs 2.52 tr
Total Expenditure (Rs. Trillion) 13.68	
Current Expenditure	33.4% ↑ Rs 12.33 tr
Development Expenditure	14.2% ↑ Rs 1.16 tr
Fiscal Deficit (as % of GDP)	3.7% (same as last year)
Primary Surplus (as % of GDP)	1.5% ↑

MONEY AND CREDIT

KEY INDICATORS

Policy Rate	22.0% (Avg Jul-Apr FY2023)
Broad Money (M2)	Rs 2,216 bn* (Growth of 7.0%)
NFA	Rs 530 bn*
NDA	Rs 1,687 bn*
Private Sector Credit	Rs 188 bn*
Weighted Average Lending Rate	20.8% (Average)
Weighted Average Deposit Rate	10.4%* (Average)

*: Jul-Mar FY2024

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CAPITAL MARKETS AND CORPORATE SECTOR

KEY INDICATORS

Jul-Mar FY2024

KSE-100 Index	61.6% ↑
Market Capitalization	48.3% ↑ Rs 9,447.7 bn
Fund Mobilized at PSX	Rs 18.9 bn
Net Investment in NSS*	Rs -105 bn
Incorporation of Companies (No.)	20,810
Commodities Contracts	Rs 4.08 tr

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INFLATION

KEY INDICATORS

Consumer Price Index (CPI)	24.5% (FY2024)* ↓	29.2% (FY2023)*
CPI Urban	25.1% (FY2024)* ↓	26.8% (FY2023)*
Food: ↓ 24.2% (FY2024)* 37.3% (FY2023)*	Non-Food: ↑ 25.7% (FY2024)* 20.3% (FY2023)*	
CPI Rural	23.8% (FY2024)* ↓	32.7% (FY2023)*
Food: ↓ 23.7% (FY2024)* 41.1% (FY2023)*	Non-Food: ↓ 23.8% (FY2024)* 24.9% (FY2023)*	
Core	Urban: ↑ 16.4% (FY2024)* 16.0% (FY2023)*	Rural: ↑ 23.3% (FY2024)* 20.1% (FY2023)*
Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)	28.7% (FY2024)* ↓	32.8% (FY2023)*
Wholesale Price Index (WPI)	21.1% (FY2024)* ↓	33.9% (FY2023)*
FAO Food Price Index	↓ -13.8% (2023/22)	↓ -7.5% (Apr-24/Apr-23)

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TRADE AND PAYMENTS

KEY INDICATORS
Jul-Apr FY2024 ($ billion)

Current Account Deficit	0.2
Exports	25.7
Imports	43.4
Trade Deficit	17.7
Remittances	23.8
Foreign Direct Investment	1.5

PUBLIC DEBT

KEY INDICATORS

Total Public Debt (End March 2024)	67,525 (Rs. billion)
Domestic Debt	43,432 (Rs. billion)
External Public Debt	24,093 (Rs. billion)
Reduction in Stock of T-Bill	0.8 (Rs. trillion)
ATM of GoP Securities	3.1 (Years) ↑
Sukuk auction system shifted to Pakistan Stock Exchange	

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EDUCATION

KEY INDICATORS

Expenditure (FY2023)	1.5 (as % of GDP)
Literacy Rate	62.8%
Male: 73.4%	Female: 51.9%
Universities	263
Public: 154	Private: 109
Higher Education Allocation	69.7 (Rs billion)
Ph.D Faculty Members	35.46%

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

KEY INDICATORS

Public Health Expenditure	1.0 (As% of GDP FY2023)
Health Sector PSDP Allocation	25.3 (Rs billion)
Hospitals	1,284 (2023)
Basic Health Units	5,520 (2023)
Infant Mortality Rate	52.8 (Per 100,000 Births - 2021)
Life Expectancy	67.3 (2022)
Registered Doctors	299,113 (2022)

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POPULATION, LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

KEY INDICATORS

Population Size (2023)	241.5 (million)
Rural: 147.75 million	Urban: 93.75 million
Unemployment Rate (LFS 2021)	6.3%
Workers Regd. for Employment Abroad	862,625 (2023)
Prime Minister's Youth Business & Agriculture Loan Scheme (till Mar 2024)	
Disbursement: Rs 83,683 mn	Beneficiaries: 140,702

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

KEY INDICATORS

NHA's Network Length	14,480 (Km)
Pak Railways Passenger Traffic	22.5* (mn passengers)
Pak Railways Freight Traffic	4,310* (tonne Km (million)
PNSC Group's Profit after Tax	14,690* (Rs million)
Cargo Handling at Ports**	98,822* (mn tonne)
Pakistan Post's Network	10,408 (number)
PBC's Broadcasting Network	80 (units)

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ENERGY

KEY INDICATORS

Total Installed Capacity (end March 2024)	42,131 (MW)
Total Installed Generation (end March 2024)	92,091 (Gwh)
Consumptions (Jul-Mar 2024)	
Total Electricity	68,559 (Gwh)
Petroleum Products	12.30 (million tonnes)
Gas	3,207 (Mmcfd)
Coal	17.3 (million tonnes)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION

KEY INDICATORS

IT and ITeS Companies	20,000** (Regd. with PSEB)
IT Exports	2,283* (US$ million)
Trade Surplus of IT and ITeS	1,996* (US$ million)
Freelancers' Remittances	350.2* (US$ million)
Broadband Subscribers	135** (million)
Total Telecom Subscribers Mobile and Fixed	194.6** (million)

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SOCIAL PROTECTION

KEY INDICATORS

BISP Allocations (2024) (end March 2024)	466.0 (Rs. billion)
BISP Beneficiaries: 9.4 million	
BISP Disbursement	313.4* (Rs. billion)
Conditional Cash Transfer Rs 56.0 billion	
Un-Conditional Cash Transfer Rs 257.5 billion	
BISP Taleemi Wazaif*	
Enrolment (No.) 2.2 million	
Disbursement Rs 36.9 billion	
Interest Free Loan Program*	
Borrowers: 274,730 (Nos)	
Disbursement Rs 12.2 billion	
PBM Programs	7.7 (Rs. billion)

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Climate Change

KEY INDICATORS

National Adaptation Plan 2023	
COP28 December 2023	
Green Pakistan Upscaling Program	2.1 Trees billion (Phase-I)
National Clean Air Policy 2023	
Climate Budget Tagging Initiative	
First Artificial Rain through Cloud Seeding December 2023	

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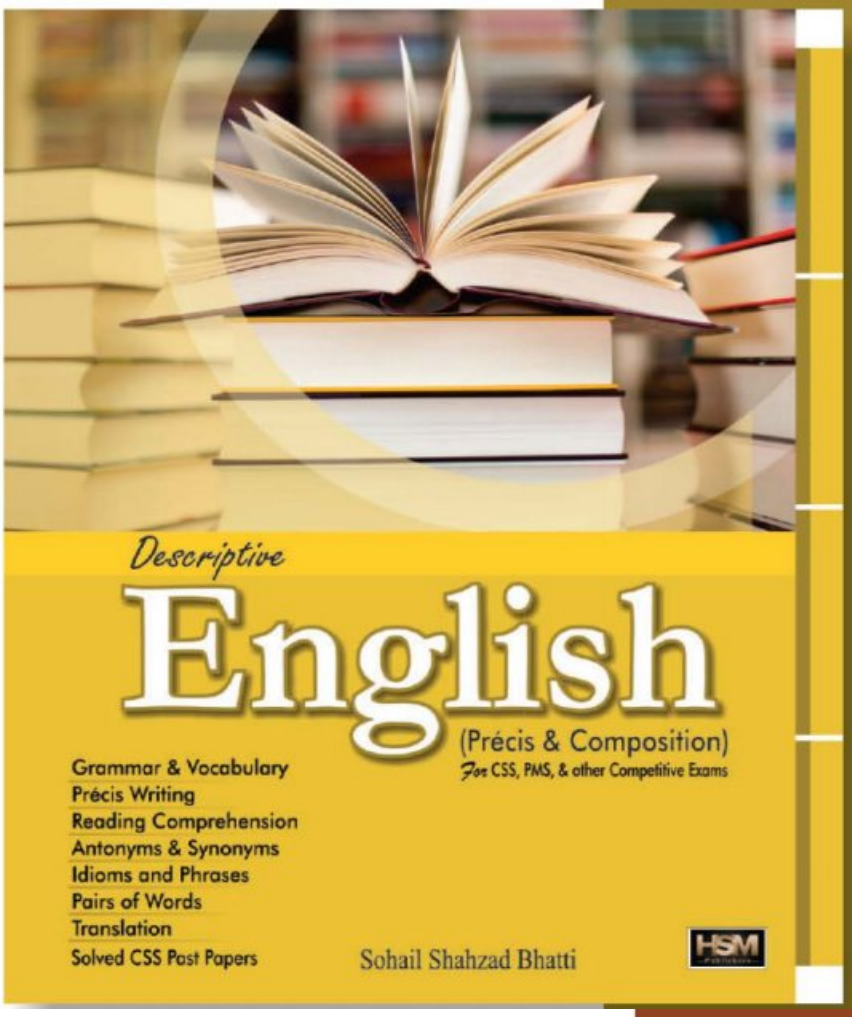

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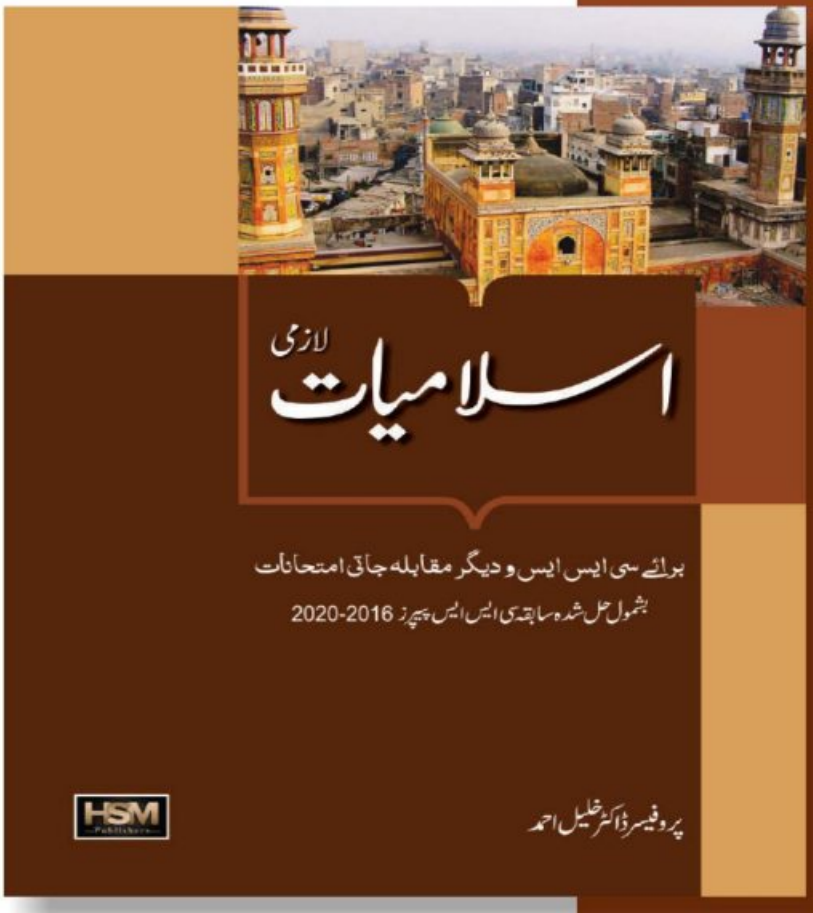

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ECONOMIC ACTIVITY FORECAST TO TILT TO ASIA

2040 Population Rank		2020 GDP Rank		2040 GDP Rank
1	INDIA	6	↑	3
2	CHINA	2	↑	1
5	INDONESIA	16	↑	8
6	PAKISTAN	39	↑	23
8	BANGLADESH	44	↑	28
14	PHILIPPINES	34	↑	20
15	JAPAN	3	↓	4
16	VIETNAM	40	↑	24

Source: Oxford Economics.

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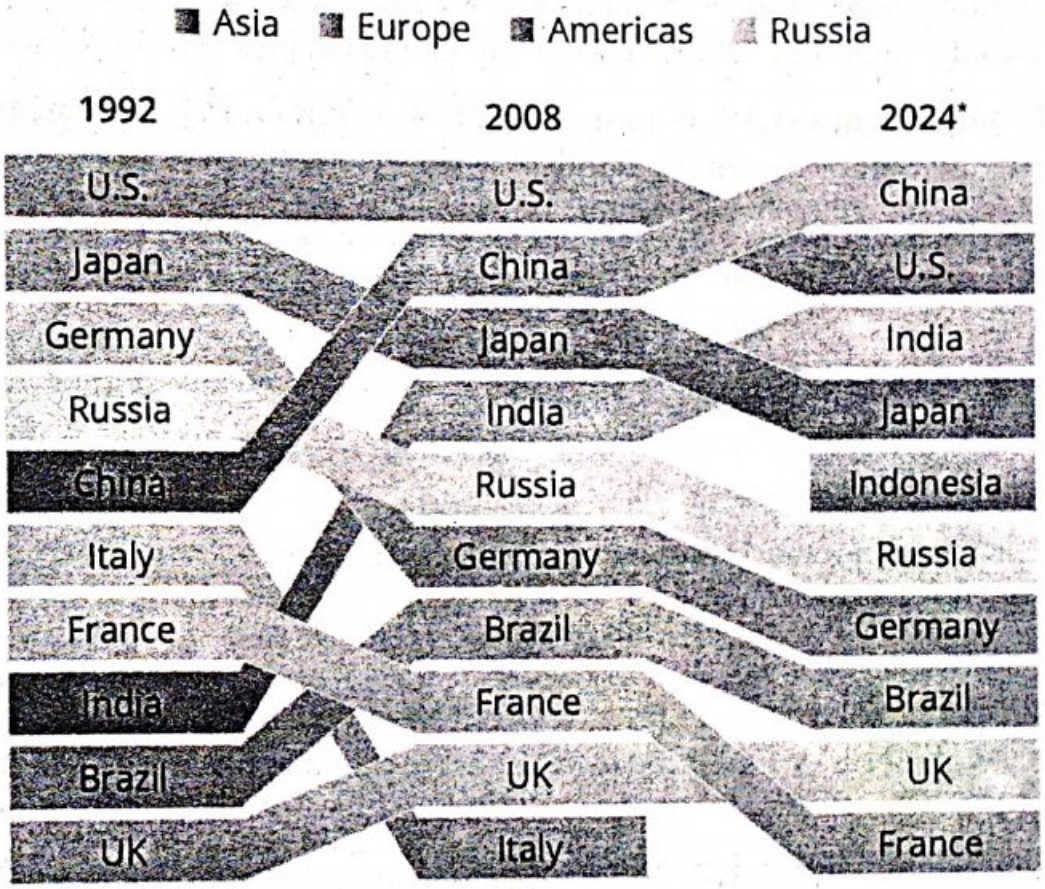
Continental Shift: The World's Biggest Economies Over Time

Countries with the highest GDP on Earth in 1992, 2008 and 2024



* projection
Based on purchasing power parity, intl. dollars
Source: IMF

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statista

REPORTS 2024

1. GDP Growth: The GDP growth rate for FY2024 is projected at 3.5%, a recovery from the previous fiscal year's contraction.
2. Inflation: Average inflation during FY2024 is estimated at 28.2%, largely driven by food and energy prices.

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3. Fiscal Deficit: In the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan's fiscal deficit was recorded at approximately 6.5% of GDP.
4. Primary Surplus: The primary surplus improved significantly to 1.5% of GDP due to fiscal consolidation efforts.
5. Tax Collection: For the fiscal year 2023-24, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in Pakistan collected a total of Rs. 9,306 billion in taxes. This exceeded the initial target of Rs. 9,252 billion by Rs. 54 billion. The revenue collection showed a significant 30% increase compared to the previous fiscal year.
6. The investment to GDP ratio stood at 13.14 percent in FY2024 compared to 14.13 percent in FY2023 mainly due to contractionary macroeconomic policies and political uncertainty
7. Public Debt: For the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan's total public debt increased to Rs67.5 trillion.
8. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): In the fiscal year 2023-24, Pakistan received $1.45 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), marking a 14% decrease from the previous fiscal year.
9. Export and Import Performance: Exports grew by 5.8% to $28.6 billion, while imports decreased by 2.4% to $55.6 billion during the first ten months of FY2024.
10. Current Account Deficit: The FY2023-24 year deficit was recorded at $2.4 billion, a substantial decrease from the $17.4 billion deficit in FY 2022-23.

A

11. Pakistan's GDP growth projection down to 2 percent in 2023 and Pakistan's GDP growth rate to improve to 3.2 percent in 2024: World Bank
12. Inflation to keep haunting Pakistanis: UN survey
13. Pakistan has one of lowest trade-to-GDP ratios in world: ADB
14. Pakistan has amassed foreign debt valued at $130 billion, with over 30 percent of the population living below the poverty line.
15. Pakistan has proven oil reserves of 354 million barrels, ranking 52nd in the world on this count.
16. Pakistan has allocated only 2.3 percent of the budget for education, which is 0.3 percent less than that of 1999.

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17. It is estimated that Pakistan has 27 billion barrels of oil reserves, offshore and onshore, largely located in Balochistan, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP).

18. Pakistan is the 46th largest country in terms of economy.

19. $55 billion required for Pakistan to expand power generation capacity to 65,000MW by 2031.

B

20. Pakistan earns about eight thousand billion rupees a year in tax and non-tax revenue.

21. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB) have estimated that Pakistan has to face $3.8 billion loss yearly due to climate change.

22. According to some estimates, the net worth of Pakistan's real estate sector can be anywhere between $300 billion and $400 billion.

23. According to Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), 24 percent educated people are jobless countrywide.

24. In Pakistan, private investment represents only 10 percent of GDP. To become a middle-income country, that figure should be 25-30 percent.

25. Pakistan ranks 110 out of 141 countries on the Global Competitiveness index.

26. *The Economist* has placed Pakistan at the fourth place among 43 countries with seriously high inflation rates.

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C

27. The World Bank has suggested that Pakistan needs an integrated and long-term reform strategy for fixing the export challenge that will require coordination across government agencies at federal and provincial levels to harmonise policy decisions, institutional strengthening to ensure effective implementation and active public-private sector dialogue to secure the broadest support to reforms.

28. Only 29 percent of women in Pakistan have a bank account, among the lowest in the world, and this disparity severely impedes national economic development.

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E

40. Small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector plays a key role in Pakistan's economy by contributing 40 percent to the nation's GDP and 25 percent to its annual export earnings.

41. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is crucial as it helps technology and skill transfer, improves business management practices, lifts exports and the economic growth of host nations, and creates jobs.

42. As of June 2023, Total Public Debt and Liabilities of Pakistan is estimated to be about Rs. 72.978 trillion/US$140 billion which is 93 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) of Pakistan.

43. Agriculture Emergency Programme Pakistan has been planned to enhance productivity and profitability through increase in yield up to 7 mounds/acre to reduce cost of production, ensure food security, export for surplus and retrieve area for oilseed and high value crops to minimize import bills on edible oil.

44. Currently, Pakistan's foreign debt-to-GDP ratio stands at 43 percent compared to 21 percent of Bangladesh which also holds foreign exchange reserves of $44 billion compared to Pakistan's $24 billion.

45. The public sector accounts for more than 90 percent of financing for sustainable development in Pakistan.

46. An average Rs 7.5 trillion of public spending will be required to halve poverty in Punjab.

47. By 2024, the economic contribution of the mobile industry in Pakistan is expected to reach $24 billion, accounting for 6.6 percent of GDP.

48. The Board of Investment (BoI) launched three platforms to provide local and foreign investors ease of online registration for zone enterprises that will promote business activities.

F

49. The benchmark index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has grown at an annualised rate of almost 14 percent since its inception 30 years ago.

50. By 2030, generation capacity of 57,204 MW will be needed by Pakistan to satisfy its power needs. Currently Pakistan is producing around 34,501 MW.

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29. Agriculture represents 21 percent of Pakistan's GDP and around 68 percent of the population is engaged in farming directly or indirectly through production, processing, or distribution of major agricultural commodities. Given its role in employment, food security and the economy, it is a strategic sector for pro-poor growth and rural development.

30. A loss of almost $36bn has been caused by the decline of cotton production from 15.5m bales to 5.5m bales in the last decade in Pakistan, claims the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association.

31. The SBP data shows online transactions spiking by 24 percent in volume to 296.7m and 22 percent in value to Rs. 21.4tr as more people in Pakistan switch to internet and mobile banking for convenience.

32. Under new proposed law, The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) will discontinue quasi-fiscal operations or monetary actions it undertakes on behalf of the government but keep refinancing facilities it uses to support access (of various sectors of the economy) to subsidized credit, even after the passage from the parliament of amendments to the existing SBP Act of 1956.

33. World Bank report, only four crops — rice, wheat, sugarcane and cotton — consume 80 percent water, and contribute only 5 percent to GDP. It shows that the agriculture sector offers one of the poorest 'crop per drop' ratios.

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D

34. Textile clothing exports of Pakistan soar to $13.7 billion.

35. Government has allocated a paltry amount of Rs. 12 billion for Agriculture sector. The sector contributes 19.2 percent to the GDP and employs 38.5 percent of the country's labour force.

36. Pakistan's exports of information technology grew by 47.4 percent to cross the $2 billion mark for the first time in the country's history in the outgoing fiscal year.

37. According to a World Bank report, one-fifth of electricity is lost due to theft and poor infrastructure while other efficiency issues may be costing Pakistan about $4.5 billion per annum.

38. Agriculture provides livelihood to two-thirds of Pakistanis and employs 39 percent of the total national labour force.

39. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) introduced a financing scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), enabling them to get loans without collateral.

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E

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51. The Dasu hydropower project (DHP) includes the construction of a 4,320MW hydropower plant on the Indus River near Dasu town in Kohistan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

52. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have jointly prepared a climate risk profile of Pakistan, which projects an increase in the number of people affected by flooding, with a likely increase of around 5 million people exposed to extreme river floods by 2035-44.

53. IGCEP (Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan 2021-30) in Pakistan provides for new power-generation projects to be undertaken in accordance with demand-supply fundamentals through the open and competitive auction of contracts.

54. Pakistan has declined to commit to net-zero emissions targets by arguing that the energy transition alone would require $101 billion by 2030 and an additional $65 billion by 2040 on account of completing the in-progress RE projects.

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REPORTS ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS

A

1. In the 2023 Democracy Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), Pakistan's ranking fell by 11 places, placing them at 118th. Pakistan's score fell to 3.25, which reclassifies them from a hybrid regime to an authoritarian regime.

2. Pakistan ranked 133rd out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) in 2023, according to Transparency International. The country's overall score improved by two points, from 27 in 2022 to 29 in 2023.

3. According to the Fragile States Index (FSI) of 2024, Pakistan is in the 92nd position, with a score of 91.7. This score is based on 12 factors, including:
   - Cohesion
   - Security apparatus
   - Factionalized elites
   - Group grievance
   - Economic decline and poverty
   - Uneven economic development
   - Human flight and brain drain
   - State legitimacy
   - Public services
   - Human rights and rule of law
   - Demographic pressures
   - Refugees and internally displaced persons
   - External intervention

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4. The 2023-24 Report places Pakistan in the 'low' human development category with a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.540 and global ranking of 164 out of 193 countries.

5. Pakistan Ranks 130th out of 142 in Rule of Law Index.

6. In 2023, Reporters without Borders (RSF) said Pakistan now ranks 150 out of 180 countries, with a score of 39.95 as compared to 37.99 last year.

7. Pakistan's ranking in the Global Democracy Index is as follows:

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- Ranked 118th out of 165 countries
- Score: 3.25
- Status: authoritarian regime

8. Pakistan was ranked 142 out of 146 countries in the 2023 Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum.
9. As per the 2023 World Press Freedom Index, released by RSF on World Press Freedom Day, Pakistan now occupies the 150th position out of 180 countries and territories, 11 spots higher than neighbouring India, which comes in at 161.
10. Nine states – the US, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea – possess about 12,705 nuclear weapons, of which 9,440 are estimated to be in military stockpiles for potential use, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) says in its annual report.
11. National Renewable Energy Policy of 2019 aims to acquire a 30percent share of renewables in the energy mix by 2030.
12. According to voter statistics released by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the number of young voters stood at 55.74 million as of March 28 2023.
13. Pakistan partly delivered on promises to protect journalists: report
14. 87pc of unregistered deaths in Asia found in Pakistan, four states: study
15. The Pakistani passport has been ranked the fourth worst in the world for international travel, according to the Henley Passport Index 2023.
16. $18bn penalty feared if Pakistan doesn't complete Iran gas project: Report

B

17. In the latest Worldwide Governance Indicators, Pakistan was ranked in the 25th percentile on 'Rule of Law'.
18. Pakistan stifles dissent, India targets minorities: Human Rights Watch
19. Mobile phone is the major source of information with 90.62percent of Pakistan's housing units having access to it, says Gallup big data analysis.
20. Pakistan has been ranked as the second-worst country in terms of gender parity, placed 145 out of 146 states, in the latest Global Gender Gap Report released by the World Economic Forum
21. Pakistan is ranked 29 out of 150 countries for e-sport earnings, with 278 local players earning a combined total of $4.78m.

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22. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund's (UNICEF) estimates, of the 8.6 million girls enrolled at primary level in Pakistani schools, only 2.8million go on to acquire secondary education. The remaining 5.8m girls do not continue their education because of various domestic problems.

C

23. Cross border incidents attributed to forces in Pakistan caused less than 2 percent of civilian casual ties in Afghanistan from January1 to December 31, 2020, says the latest UN report on the war-ravaged country. The Taliban rebels were responsible for 45pc of these civilian casualties while pro-government forces caused 25pc of these casualties in 2020. Of these 22pc of civilian casualties were caused by the Afghan National Security Force.

24. The government has chosen 84 out of a total of 212 state-owned enterprises for privatization, liquidation or retention in the public sector to meet a structural bench mark of the IMF as it moves towards revival of the suspended $6bn loan programme.

25. Some of the most climate-vulnerable countries are also ranked as some of the most corrupt. German watch has ranked Pakistan eighth on its risk index, Transparency International has placed this country as high as 124 thon the corruption index. Their annual reports show that corruption and climate change are inextricably linked.

26. At the UN hosted Climate Ambition Summit, Prime Minister Imran Khan declared that Pakistan will generate 60 percent of its energy from renewable sources, ensure that 30 percent of new vehicles will be electric vehicle sand that Pakistan will no longer pursue coal power plants. These broad pronouncements can guide the country's road map for decarbonisation.

27. According to reports, Pakistan plans that 30 percent of all new cars, trucks, buses, vans and jeeps, and 50 percent of all two-, three-and four-wheelers will be electric vehicles by 2030. By 2040, 90 percent of vehicles on the road are envisioned as electric.

28. "FATF had assessed Pakistan to have completed 26 of the 27 Action Items under the current Action Plan. In there main in gone partially address editem, significant progress has been made by Pakistan, which is dulyac know ledged by the wider FATF membership.

29. The World Bank has announced that it is provid in gover $4 billion for the purchase and supply of Covid-19 vaccines to 51 countries, including Pakistan.

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30. The federal government has announced amulti billion package for the agricultural sector to boost an eglected part of our economy. The plan includes Rs. 110 billion direct investment and 80 percent increase einagro credit to bring it to Rs. 2.7trillion over the next three years.

31. The Foreign Office said that some 5,000 terrorists belonging to the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban (TTP) Pakistan were posing a threat to the country's security and stability from their sanctuaries in Afghanistan.

D

32. Pakistan has reaffirmed its pledge to fully implement 27 international conventions as part of its commitment to the European Union's preferential trade arrangement, the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+).

33. The World Bank has approved $442 million to help improve access to water and sanitation services for the most vulnerable rural communities in Punjab..

34. Pakistan has signed an agreement with Pfizer Pakistan under which it will receive 13 million doses of the American vaccine.

35. Despite the rejection of its plea on corruption charges, Pakistan has various options to deal with the Reko Diq case, where in the country is facing a massive penalty of $6 billion.

36. Over76 percent children in Pakistan receive full course of vaccinations under EPI: survey

37. Pakistan has signed terms of accord for gas pipeline with Russia.

38. Pakistan has severely criticised the draft agreement that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is hopeful to finalise to stop overfishing.

39. Around 69 percent of employees say corruption is wide spread with in businesses located in their country, according to a survey by Gallup.

40. Pakistan has decided to term in ate 23 bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with different countries in order to avoid international arbitration with foreign firm son commercial contracts.

41. Pakistan's envoys in US and UN have assured the international community that Islamabad would follow their lead, particularly that of the "extended troika", in offering diplomatic recognition to a Taliban government in Afghanistan.

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E

42. Pakistan is maintaining a regular engagement with the Afghan Taliban for safeguarding the country's security interests: ISPR

43. Are centre port by Freedom House, the US-based watch dog that assesses democratic trends around the world, has placed Pakistan among the top 10 countries where digital freedoms are being curtailed.

44. Increase in gruralaccess from the current 61 percent to 75 percent will require $76 billion by 2030.

45. According to the leaked Pandora papers, Pakistanis are the fifth largest investors in property in London's most expensive neighbourhoods. More than 700 Pakistani shave been named in the off shore affair.

46. Pakistan and Iraq agreed on setting up a mechanism for political consultations between the two countries and early convening of a body that steers bilateral cooperation.

47. As the number of registered voters climbs to 119 million, as many as 81 of the total 133 districts across Pakistan, have a gender gap of over 10 per cent.

48. The Federal Ombudsman Secretariat has revealed that currently there are 88,687 prisoners in 116 jails of the Pakistan against a sanctioned capacity of 65,168 inmates.

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REPORTS ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A

1. Approximately 22.8 million children aged 5-16 are out of school, making Pakistan the country with the second-highest number of out-of-school children globally.
2. Pakistan spends about 2.8% of its GDP on education, which is lower than the recommended 4-6% by UNESCO.
3. Only around 9% of Pakistan's youth aged 17-23 are enrolled in higher education institutions.
4. Pakistan has a maternal mortality rate of 186 deaths per 100,000 live births.
5. There are about 9 physicians and 6 nurses per 10,000 people, indicating a shortage of healthcare professionals.
6. Government expenditure on health is about 1.2% of GDP, which is below the global average.
7. The inflation rate has been volatile, with recent figures around 9-11%.
8. The youth unemployment rate is significantly higher than the national average, hovering around 10-12%.
9. Women hold about 20% of the seats in the National Assembly and 17% in the Senate.
10. The gap in primary school enrolment between boys and girls is around 10%, with girls lagging behind.
11. An estimated 70-90% of women in Pakistan experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime.
12. Around 64% of Pakistan's population is under the age of 30, representing a significant youth bulge.
13. The annual population growth rate is approximately 2.1%.
14. The age dependency ratio is about 61%, indicating a high burden on the working-age population.
15. About 21% of girls in Pakistan are married before the age of 18.
16. Only 58% of the population has access to improved sanitation facilities.

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17. Pakistan faces challenges with human rights issues, including freedom of expression, religious intolerance, and discrimination against minorities.
18. Pakistan faces a housing deficit of approximately 10 million units.
19. The urban population is growing at about 3% annually, leading to increased pressure on urban infrastructure.
20. Around 45% of the urban population lives in slum conditions, lacking basic services and infrastructure.
21. Major cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad frequently experience hazardous air quality levels, with PM2.5 levels often exceeding safe limits.
22. Pakistan is classified as a water-stressed country, with per capita water availability decreasing from 5,260 cubic metres in 1951 to around 1,000 cubic metres in 2023.
23. Pakistan's forest cover is less than 5% of its total land area, with an annual deforestation rate of approximately 1.5%.
24. About 40% of children under five are stunted, indicating chronic malnutrition.
25. Nearly 60% of households face food insecurity, with rural areas being more affected.
26. Agriculture contributes about 19% to the GDP and employs around 42% of the workforce, yet small farmers face challenges like low productivity and lack of access to markets.
27. Major cities like Karachi have seen a decline in crime rates due to improved law enforcement, but petty crimes and street crimes remain prevalent.
28. While incidents of terrorism have decreased significantly, occasional attacks still occur, primarily in the border regions.
29. Pakistan has approximately 350,000 police officers, translating to a police-to-population ratio of about 1:600.
30. Pakistan has about 264,000 kilometres of road networks, with national highways and motorways covering 12,000 kilometres.
31. Around 75% of the population has access to electricity, but power outages and load shedding are common, especially in rural areas.
32. Internet penetration stands at approximately 36%, with urban areas having higher access rates compared to rural regions.

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33. Pakistan is home to over 70 languages, with Urdu being the national language and English widely used in official and business settings.

34. Pakistan has six UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient city of Mohenjo-Daro and the Lahore Fort.

35. The Pakistani film industry, known as Lollywood, has been experiencing a revival with increasing local and international recognition.

36. Religious minorities, including Hindus, Christians, and Ahmadis, face discrimination and persecution, with blasphemy laws often used against them.

37. Press freedom is under threat, with journalists facing harassment, censorship, and violence.

38. Despite challenges, Pakistan has a vibrant civil society with numerous NGOs working on issues ranging from education and health to human rights and women's empowerment.

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39. Education

40. The literacy rate is projected to reach 70% by 2030 if current educational reforms and investments continue. (World Bank).

41. The government aims to achieve 100% primary school enrolment by 2030 through various initiatives like the Ehsaas Education Stipends programme (UNICEF).

42. Life expectancy is expected to rise to 70 years by 2030 due to improvements in healthcare services and access. (World Health Organization)

43. With ongoing health interventions, the maternal mortality rate is projected to decline to 140 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. (UNICEF)

44. With continued economic growth and poverty alleviation programmes, the poverty rate is expected to decrease to around 15% by 2030. (World Bank)

45. Efforts to boost industrial and service sectors are projected to lower the unemployment rate to 3% by 2030. (International Monetary Fund)

46. Female labour force participation is expected to increase to 30% by 2030 due to policy initiatives promoting gender equality and economic empowerment. (World Economic Forum)

47. The gender gap in education is anticipated to narrow significantly, with female enrolment in secondary education reaching 85% by 2030. (UNESCO)

48. Pakistan's population is projected to reach approximately 275 million by 2030. (United Nations Population Fund)

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49. The urban population is expected to grow to 45% by 2030, driven by rural-to-urban migration and urban development projects. (World Bank)

50. Through enhanced enforcement of child labour laws and education incentives, the number of child labourers is expected to reduce by 50% by 2030 (International Labour Organization).

51. The government targets 100% access to clean drinking water by 2030, supported by projects like the Clean Green Pakistan Movement. (UNICEF)

52. To address the housing shortage, the government plans to construct 5 million affordable housing units by 2030 under the Naya Pakistan Housing Programme (Asian Development Bank)

53. Investments in urban infrastructure are expected to improve living conditions in major cities, reducing the slum population to below 30% by 2030. (World Bank)

54. By 2030, Pakistan aims to increase the share of renewable energy to 30% of the total energy mix, reducing reliance on fossil fuels. (International Renewable Energy Agency)

55. The Billion Tree Tsunami project aims to plant 10 billion trees by 2028, significantly increasing forest cover. (UNEP)

56. With advancements in agricultural technology and practices, food production is expected to increase by 40% by 2030, improving food security. (Food and Agriculture Organization)

57. Expanded nutrition programmes aim to reduce stunting among children under five to 20% by 2030. (World Food Programme)

58. Strengthened law enforcement and community policing initiatives are expected to reduce crime rates by 25% by 2030. (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

59. Continued efforts in counter-terrorism are projected to further decrease incidents of terrorism, enhancing overall security. (South Asia Terrorism Portal)

60. Pakistan targets 100% electricity access by 2030, with significant investments in grid expansion and rural electrification. (International Energy Agency)

61. Internet penetration is expected to reach 70% by 2030, driven by the expansion of digital infrastructure and government policies. (International Telecommunication Union)

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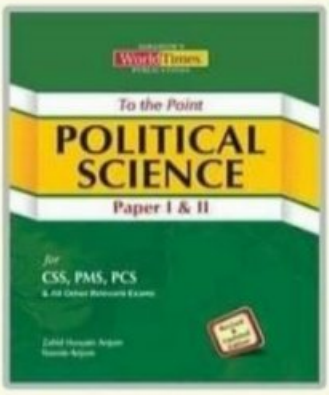

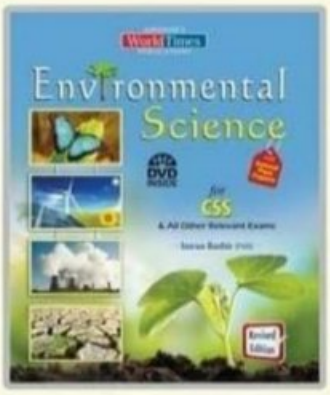

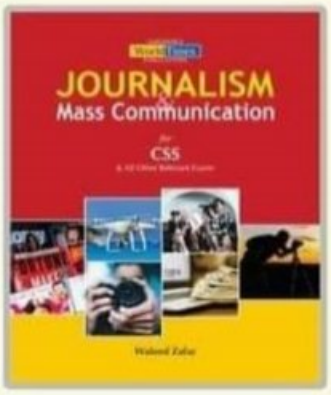

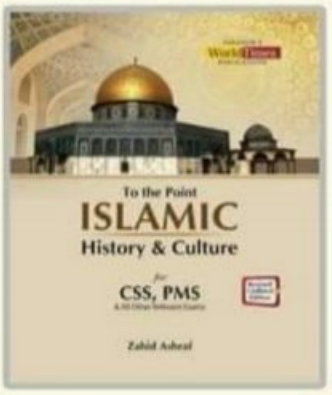

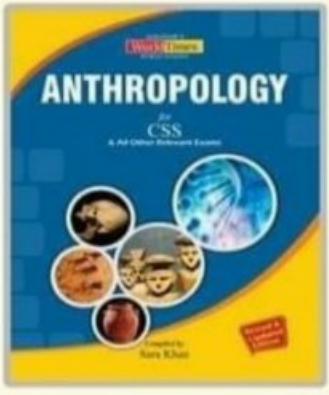

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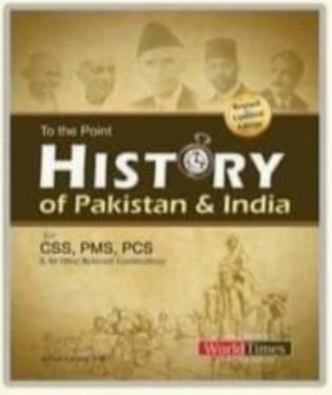

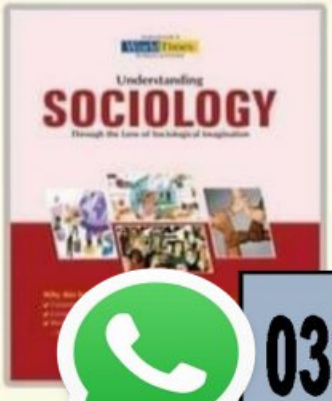

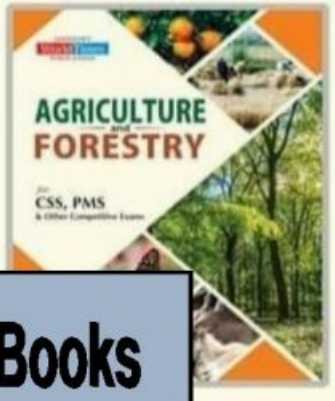

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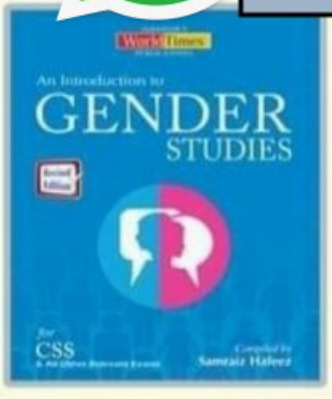

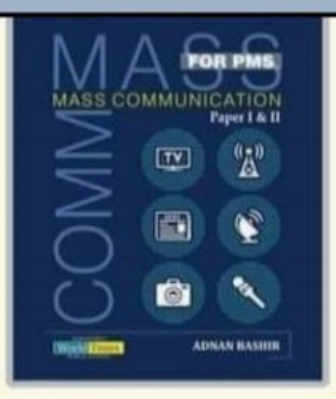

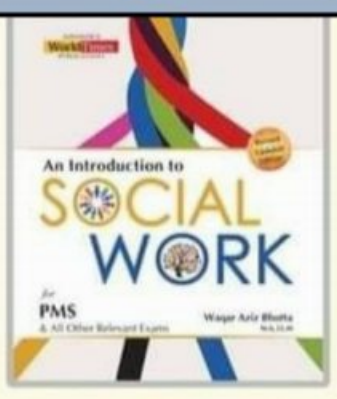

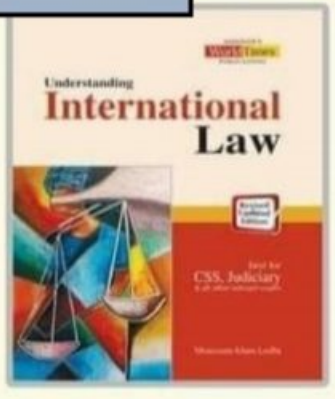

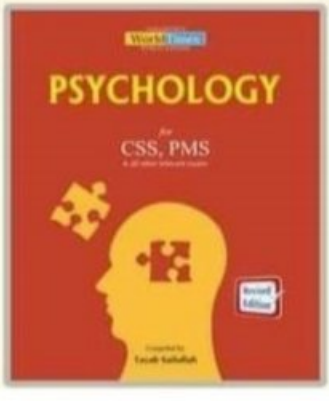

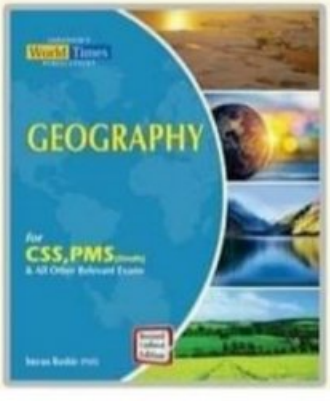

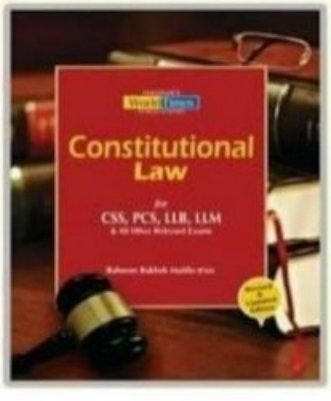

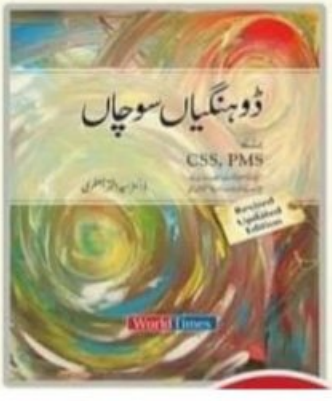

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62. The government aims to boost tourism, projecting a threefold increase in tourist arrivals by 2030 through improved facilities and marketing. (UNESCO)

63. Efforts to preserve and promote cultural heritage are expected to increase, with more sites being considered for UNESCO World Heritage status. (Pakistan National Council of the Arts)

64. Ongoing legal and social reforms aim to enhance the protection of minority rights, reducing instances of discrimination by 2030. (Human Rights Watch)

65. Efforts to strengthen press freedom and protect journalists are projected to improve Pakistan's ranking in the World Press Freedom Index. (Reporters without Borders)

66. Pakistan, the world's fifth most populous country, has been ranked 99th out of 129 nations in 2023 in a Global Hunger Index (GHI) report which described its level of hunger as "serious".

67. Participation of women in workforce greatly constrained in Pakistan: study

68. Pakistan is ranked 36th on the list of most water-stressed countries. Its per capita annual water availability dropped from 5,600 cubic metres in the 1950s to 1,017 cubic metres at present.

69. By 2050, Pakistan will become the third most populous country in the world with 380 million mostly poor people.

70. The Education Development Index has placed Pakistan at 113th position out of 120 countries. The current literacy rate of Pakistan is 62.3 percent, which means that an estimated 60 million people are illiterate.

71. Pakistan population growing at annual rate of 1.9 percent: UN

72. The World Health Organisation (WHO) asserted in a report that every year more than 15,000 suicide cases are recorded in Pakistan.

73. According to the latest Gender Parity Index, at the current rate it will take 136 years to close the gender gap in Pakistan.

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B

74. According to some estimates, Pakistan has the third-highest number of child labourers in the world after Mauritania and Haiti.

75. 63 percent Pakistanis say mobile devices improved their careers: study

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76. Statistics tell us that every fifth person living in Pakistan, including children and adolescents, suffers from a psychological disorder; more than 75 percent of them receive no treatment.

77. According to Standard & Poor's (S&P) Global Financial Literacy Survey, only 26 percent of adults are financially literate in Pakistan.

78. Pakistan currently facing imminent nutrition crisis, says UN report

79. According to a survey conducted by the Hari Welfare Association, out of the 1.7 million people engaged in bonded labour in Sindh and around 12 million children work as domestic labour across the country.

80. South Punjab is most deprived region in province: UNDP

81. According to UNICEF, there are around 19 million child brides in Pakistan, with one in six young women married in childhood.

C

82. According to Our World in Data, women's economic participation in Pakistan is lower than other countries with similar levels of GDP per capita, such as Bangladesh, and not very different from countries with much lower GDP per capita, such as Afghanistan.

83. One estimate suggests that closing the male-female gap in labour force participation in Pakistan could lead to a one-off 30 percent boost in Pakistan's GDP.

84. The current literacy rate of Pakistan is officially 62.3 per cent, which means that an estimated population of 60 million is illiterate in the country.

85. In Pakistan, there are reportedly only 130,000 doctors for a population of more than 220 million.

86. Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) has reported that Pakistan is likely to approach absolute water scarcity by 2025.

87. In urban areas, the availability of tap water inside housing units has decreased from 60 percent in 1998 to 42 percent in 2017, according to Gallup Pakistan's big data analysis

88. Statistics show that Pakistan's per capita annual water availability has dropped to 1,017 cubic metres from 1,500 cubic metres in 2009, close to reaching the scarcity threshold of 1,000 cubic metres.

89. According to the World Health Organization, nearly 20,000 people die by suicide every year in Pakistan.

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90. Pakistan is the fifth largest country in terms of population.

91. Pakistan is 154th among 195 countries in providing proper healthcare to her people.

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D

92. Pakistan is among 36 water-stressed countries in the world since its gross water withdrawal is 74.4 percent of the total renewable water resources.

93. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), mental health disorders make up 4 percent of the total disease burden in Pakistan, with depression and anxiety leading the list of such disorders.

94. Pakistan has only 0.19 psychiatrists per 100,000 inhabitants, according to WHO estimates; one of the lowest numbers in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

95. In Pakistan, tobacco claims over 170,000 lives every year

96. It is estimated that about 50 million Pakistanis are suffering in silence from psychological issues, including depression.

97. Various studies indicate that temperature in Pakistan has increased up to 0.76 degree Celsius during the last five decades, while it has risen up to 1.5°C in the mountainous areas during the same time period.

98. According to a report by the Global Circulation Models, average temperature in Pakistan will increase from 2.5°C to 2.8°C by 2050, and it will rise more in the hilly areas.

99. According to the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, Pakistan is the eighth most vulnerable country to climate change.

E

100. About 30 million tons of food is wasted in Pakistan every year, of which 50 percent of edible food wasted is at consumers' level.

101. According to the joint estimates of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), almost two million persons die globally every year due to work-related causes. In Pakistan, most of the 62 million employed workforce, including women and children, happen to be poor, illiterate and semi-trained.

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102. About 0.44 percent of Pakistan's population was found to be disabled in the 2017 census as compared to 1998 when the disability rate was 2.38 percent, according to Gallup Pakistan.

103. According to global health ranking, Pakistan stands at 18 out of 183 countries in terms of deaths caused by heart attack.

104. According to a global report, 17 million deaths occur every year in the world, and 19 percent of deaths in Pakistan are caused by heart attacks.

105. More than 21 percent women of 20-24 years are married in Balochistan before reaching their 18th birthday whereas about 6 percent are married before 15 years of age.

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F

106. Pakistan faces 30-40 percent of water shortage currently.

107. Gallup's big data analysis of Pakistan's 2017 census indicates that one in three males in Pakistan are illiterate.

108. The report states that the percentage of children in Class 3 who could read an Urdu story dropped to 15 percent in 2021 from 19 percent in 2019.

109. According to the WHO, resistance to drugs is on the rise all over the world, but the rate of microbial resistance in Pakistan has accelerated due to poor sanitation and the unchecked and unnecessary prescription of antibiotics, among other factors.

110. Pakistan is on the list of the 10 nations most affected by climate change in spite of its negligible contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

111. Over 50 million families survived during the pandemic under Ehsaas Programme.

112. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), there are approximately 22.8 million out-of-school children in the Pakistan.

113. Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that 10 per cent countries are responsible for 80 percent of the world carbon emissions and Pakistan is one of the most affected countries by greenhouse gases.

114. The temperature is apparently set to increase in the Hindu Kush-Himalayan region by 1.7°C to 6.3°C by the end of this century.

115. Over 60 percent of the population in Pakistan is under 30, and 4.4m children are born every year, swelling the ranks of this demographic.

G

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116. The World Bank has said that climate change and natural disasters pose a major challenge to Pakistan's development, and an estimated 49 million people reside in areas that face the risk of a four-to-five percent decline in quality of life by 2030.

117. According to UNICEF, around 22.8m children between five and 16 in Pakistan remain out of school. This is the world's second-largest out-of-school child population.

118. The number of out-of-school children in Pakistan reached 18.7 million.

119. Pakistan ranks eighth among the countries with a high rate of kidney diseases, with 17 million people suffering from kidney problems.

120. According to the government's own figures, one in every four children in Pakistan has never stepped inside a school and learning poverty – the percentage of children unable to read an age-appropriate paragraph by the age of 10 – is 75 percent in the country.

121. Currently, 40 percent of the food in Pakistan goes to waste while 43 percent of our population is considered food insecure.

122. In Pakistan, the number of females in the workforce is below 30 percent.

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H

123. According to the World Food Programme, nearly 43 percent of Pakistanis are food-insecure. Of this number, 18 percent of people severely lack access to food.

124. Pakistan has the lowest life expectancy in the region – 67.3 years. It has the highest infant mortality rate – 55.7 out of 1,000 live births in the region.

125. The World Press Freedom Index listed by Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF) ranks Pakistan at an embarrassing 145 out of 180 countries and India at 142.

126. According to media reports, around 14,600 healthcare workers have been affected by the coronavirus; 143 have lost their lives in the line of duty.

127. Only 10 percent Pakistanis walk or engage in healthy exercises.

128. 39 percent of total KP children are out of school: BISP survey

129. 2.50,000 GB children involved in child labour: survey

130. According to a study conducted by the Supreme Court, a property suit – from the time of its filing until the appellate forums rule on it – takes nearly 30 years to conclude.

131. 64 percent of the Pakistan's population is under the age of 30.

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132. According Verification Immunization Coverage Survey, around 76 percent of children in Pakistan younger than two years have been administered the full dose of initial vaccinations under the country's Expanded Programme on Immunization.

133. About 63 percent of the people surveyed by Gallup Pakistan opine that it is too late to curtail climate change.

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134. 1.2m patients survived Covid since outbreak in Pakistan, NCOC

135. Antibodies from Sinovac's COVID-19 shot fade after about 6 months, booster helps – study.

136. In Pakistan, there are between 12 million and 15 million people infected with either hepatitis B or C, while at least 150,000 new cases are reported every day.

137. Cement industry is the single largest source of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in Pakistan, according to a research study.

138. Pakistan has been ranked 30th among the countries having detected most number of cases since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic according to global ranking.

139. In Pakistan, according to UNESCO, 22.8 million children, aged five to 16 years, do not attend school. The staggering figure equals 41 per cent of this age group in Pakistan.

140. Around 40 percent of children under five years in Pakistan are stunted.

141. According to Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources on underground water in 29 cities, there are 20 cities where water collected from various sources was found to be more than 50 percent unsafe for drinking.

142. Data suggests that more than 150,000 people die every year due to end-stage organ failure in Pakistan. Among these patients, 40,000 pass away from kidney failure, 70,000 from liver failure and 15,000 from heart failure.

143. About 58 percent of Pakistanis do not feel safe from crime in their own homes, a 21 percent rise since 2010, reports a survey by Gallup Pakistan.

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J

144. Youth (aged between 10 between 24 years) constitute 30 percent of Pakistan's total population.

145. Pakistan remains one of the only two countries of the world where polio virus not only exists but has been on the rise since 2015.

146. Between 2012 and 2016, the rate of suicide in Pakistan is estimated by WHO to have increased from 2.9 per 100,000 to 7.5 per 100,000 people.

147. A report revealed that a large majority – no less than 60 percent – of the suicides in Tharparkar district in 2020 were committed by individuals between 10 and 20 years of age; of these, 48 percent were 16 years old or younger.

148. In 1947, Pakistan had a population of around 36 million, today we are over 220 million, more than a six-fold increase. We have become the fifth largest country in the world, only after China, India, the US and Indonesia.

149. The Population Council estimates that there are around 9 million pregnancies in Pakistan annually. Half of these are unintentional.

150. Poor air quality poses health risk to 173 million people in Pakistan.

151. An estimated 960 destructive outburst floods hit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPk) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) in the last 20 years.

152. According to the survey, more than half the population of the seven tribal districts remains illiterate. Only 22 percent of the population has studied up to the primary level, and 10 and 7 percent of the people have studied up to the middle and Matric levels, respectively.

153. The findings stated that 77,275 prisoners were held in about 114 jails across Pakistan, against a collective capacity of 57,742.

K

154. Pakistan has over 50 million acres of land under cultivation. Around 40 million acres constitute the canal command areas and the rest are located in the riverine areas and mountain valleys.

155. The National Professional Standards for teachers in Pakistan suggests that there should be a maximum 40 students in a classroom.

156. The rate of suicide in Pakistan is rising at an alarming pace, especially among youngsters. Out of 60 percent of the cases, 48 percent are reported among those aged up to 16 years.

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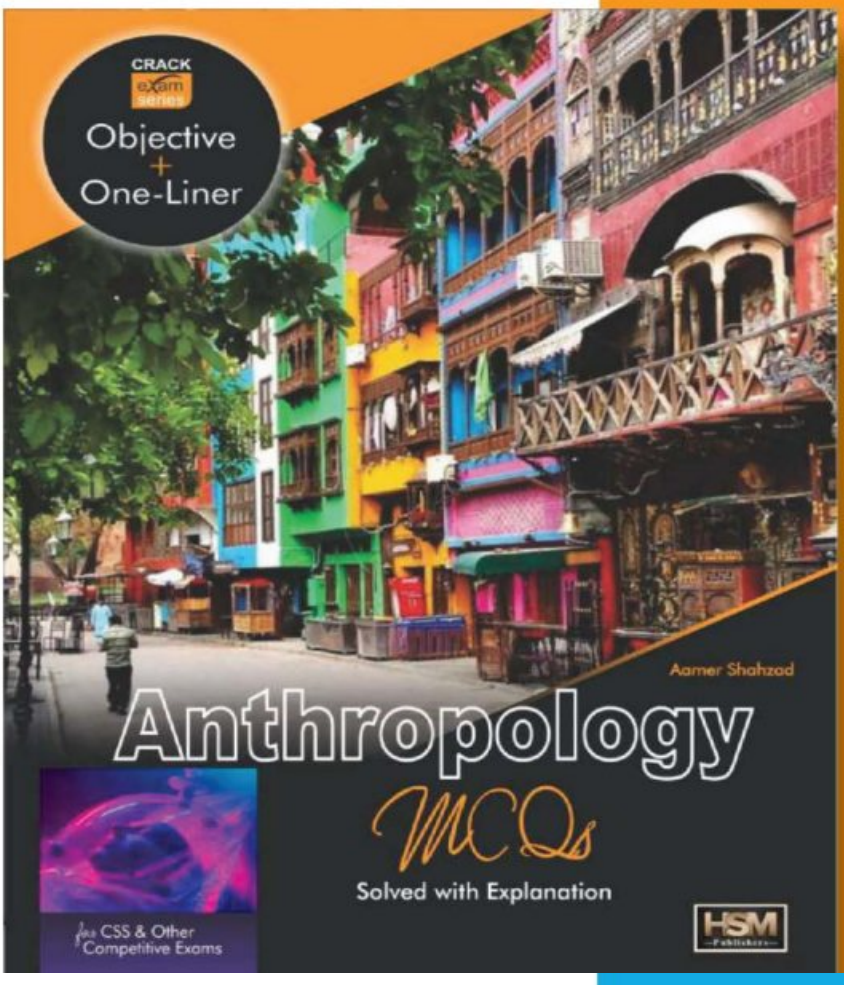

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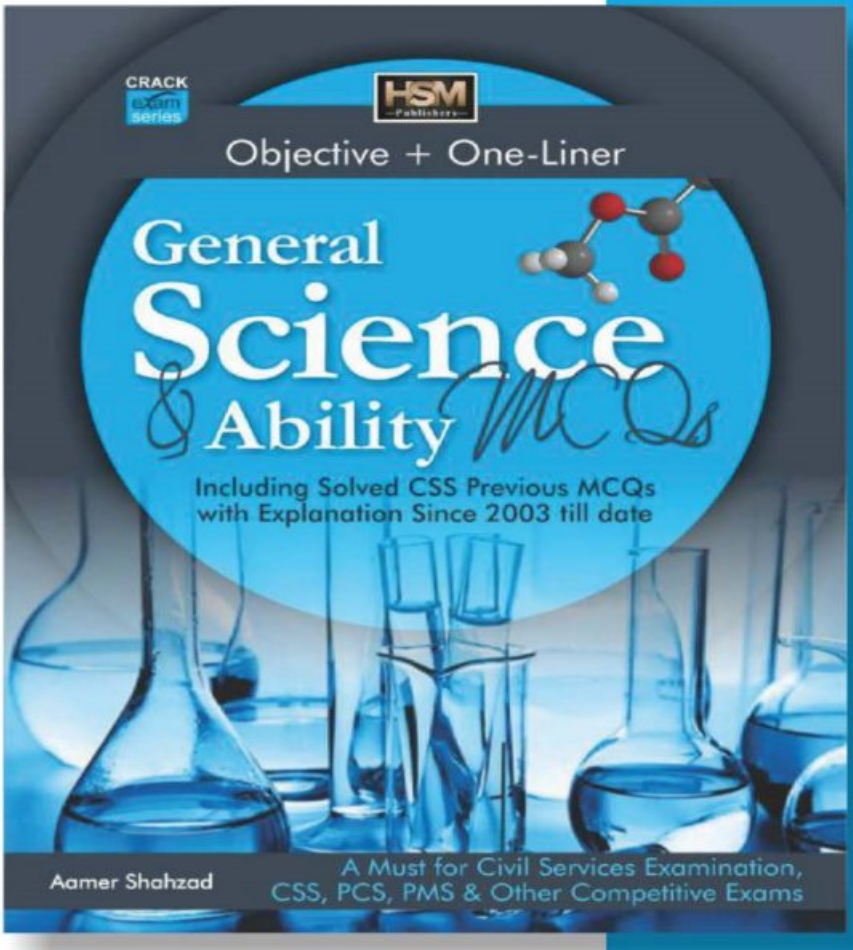

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157. Gallup Pakistan released its findings from Wave 11 of its Coronavirus Attitude Tracker Survey. Among its key findings it reported 55 percent of Pakistanis still hold the opinion that the threat of coronavirus is exaggerated.

158. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), approximately 8.9 million people are addicted to drugs in Pakistan; most of them aged 25-39 years.

159. According to Gallup Pakistan, slightly more than 48 percent people in Pakistan says that Imran Khan has performed well over the past three years.

160. More than 7 in 10 Pakistanis believe that global warming poses a serious threat, says a Gallup Pakistan poll.

161. The census of 2017 had officially declared that Urdu is the mother tongue of only 7.57 per cent of Pakistanis.

162. With global agreement to speed up action on climate change, Pakistan is among 130 countries committed to reversing deforestation along with cutting methane emissions by 30 percent by the year 2030.

163. Over 50 million families survived during the pandemic under Ehsaas Programme.

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L

164. Electricity consumption is expected to increase by 78 percent between 2019 and 2030, reflecting population growth and higher per capita consumption in Pakistan.

165. According to the World Food Programme, nearly 43 percent of Pakistanis are food-insecure. Of this number, 18 percent of people severely lack access to food.

166. About 16 percent of the uneducated population of Pakistan is unemployed while among the educated population, 24 percent of graduate are jobless out of whom 40 percent are female.

167. With an estimated 22.8 million children out of school, Pakistan has the world's second highest number of out of school children, according to UNICEF. Those children represent 44 percent of the total population aged 5-16 years in the country.

168. Nearly 2.3 billion people live in water-stressed countries, which include India and Pakistan, says the latest UN report on the looming water crisis.

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169. Pakistan has become the third country in the world with highest number of diabetics as in the past two years the number of patients suffering from the medical condition has increased by more than 14 million, an international health body said.

170. According to Human Rights Watch, around 1,000 women are killed on the pretext of 'honour' every year in Pakistan.

171. The number of people worldwide with inadequate access to water stands currently at 2.3 billion, and will top 5 billion by the year 2050.

172. 80 percent Pakistanis lack mental health facilities.

M

173. Pakistan among top 10 countries in the world where internet freedom has been on the decline and raised concerns over the rules proposed by the country that could further damage cyber liberty: Report

174. According to Gallup Pakistan's big data analysis, a sharp decline in the overall availability of outdoor water sources was observed with a 4.35 percent decrease in water availability from protected wells followed by a decrease of 1.14 percent in tap water.

Pakistan has only 30-day water storage in its dams. Apart from this, 49 percent losses are due to leakage, seepage, theft, evaporation, agriculture and industries.

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REPORTS ON TECHNOLOGY

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A

1. Pakistan produces more than 20,000 IT graduates annually.
2. The country has over 700 tech start-ups, with 70% of them still functional.
3. The IT industry contributes over $3 billion to the national economy annually.
4. Software exports amount to over $1 billion.
5. Pakistan is ranked 4th globally in terms of the number of freelancers engaged in software development and technology.
6. The average annual cost of a software engineer in Pakistan is one-fifth of the cost in the US and Europe.
7. The government has established a task force on IT and telecommunications to advise policy changes and develop strategic plans to strengthen the technology ecosystem.
8. The Ministry of Climate Change and the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for use of satellite imagery received by Suparco to mitigate the effects of climate change in the country.
9. The GSMA Innovation Fund for Mobile Internet Adoption and Digital Inclusion announced three Pakistani startups as winners out of the 597 applications received from 44 countries.
10. Social media giant Facebook is expanding its women-empowerment focused initiative 'She Means Business' to bolster financial inclusion and resilience of women-led businesses in Pakistan.
11. As per PTA, cellular mobile data usage in the Pakistan stood at 4,708 petabytes in 2022-23.
12. Pakistan is among 15 countries where electronic e-waste dismantling and recycling is considered a major health hazard, says a UN report.
13. Out of 205, 40 universities equipped to teach online: HEC
14. Pakistani freelancers earned $400 million in FY2022-23.

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15. Pakistan-based freelancers contributed foreign exchange earnings worth $350.15 million during fiscal year 2024 (July-March), says the Economic Survey 2023-24.
16. Chainalysis estimates that the country received about $1.9 billion in cryptocurrency during 2021-22.
17. Rs. 10 billion fund established for IT industry.
18. PTA figures show that there are 186 million cellular, 105 million 3G/4G, 2 million basic telephony and 108 million broadband subscribers in Pakistan as in September, 2021.

B

19. Pakistan has become exporter of 4G smartphones by sending first-ever shipment tagged 'Manufactured in Pakistan' to the United Arab Emirates.
20. Pakistan needs more Nuclear-power plants to meet energy needs: CISS
21. Pakistan to remain behind in smartphone usage, 5G coverage: GSMA
22. Pakistan government fixed mobile phone export target at $1 billion for the 2021-22 linked with the incentives offered to local manufacturers.
23. According to Payoneer's Global Gig-Economy Index Q2 2019, Pakistan was the world's fourth fastest growing freelance market, with 47 percent growth in freelance earnings.
24. Pakistan eyes launch of 5G in 2023.
25. Facebook Inc changed its name to Meta on October 28, 2021, in a rebrand that focuses on its ambitions building the "metaverse", a shared virtual environment that it bets will be the next big computing platform.
26. At 13.5 Mbps, Pakistan ranks 162nd for broadband performance according to the Global Index by Speedtest.net
27. The GSMA Innovation Fund for Mobile Internet Adoption and Digital Inclusion on June 2, 2021 announced three Pakistani startups as winners out of the 597 applications received from 44 countries.

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RELEVANT ARTICLES IN THE CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN

Followings are the fundamental rights guaranteed to the citizens of Pakistan under constitution:

ARTICLE 1

Pakistan shall be a Federal Republic to be known as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, hereinafter referred to as Pakistan.

ARTICLE 2

Islam shall be a State Religion of Pakistan.

ARTICLE 4

Right of individuals to be dealt with in accordance with law.

ARTICLE 5

Loyalty to the State is the basic duty of every citizen. Obedience to the Constitution and law is the [inviolable] obligation of every citizen wherever he may be and of every other person for the time being within Pakistan.

ARTICLE 6

Any person who abrogates or subverts or suspends or holds in abeyance, or attempts or conspires to abrogate or subvert or suspend or hold in abeyance, the Constitution by use of force or show of force or by any other unconstitutional means shall be guilty of high treason.

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ARTICLE 9

No person shall be deprived of life or liberty save in accordance with law.

ARTICLE 10

No person who is arrested shall be detained in custody without being informed, as soon as may be, of the grounds for such arrest, nor shall he be denied the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice.

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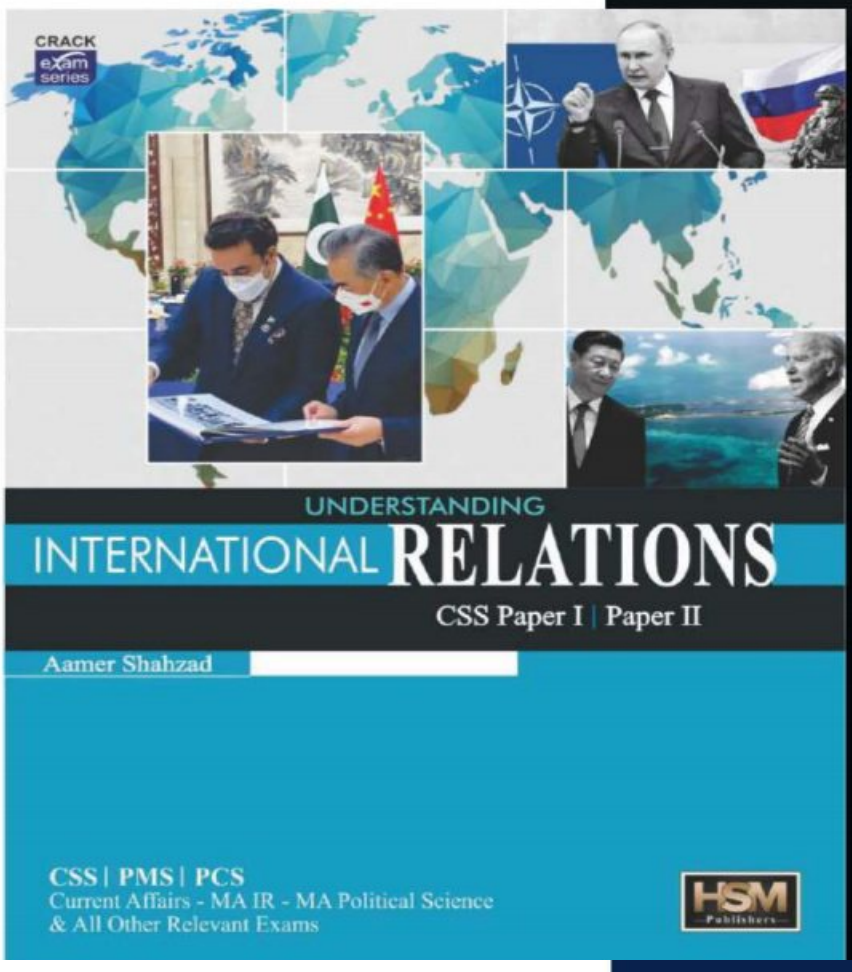

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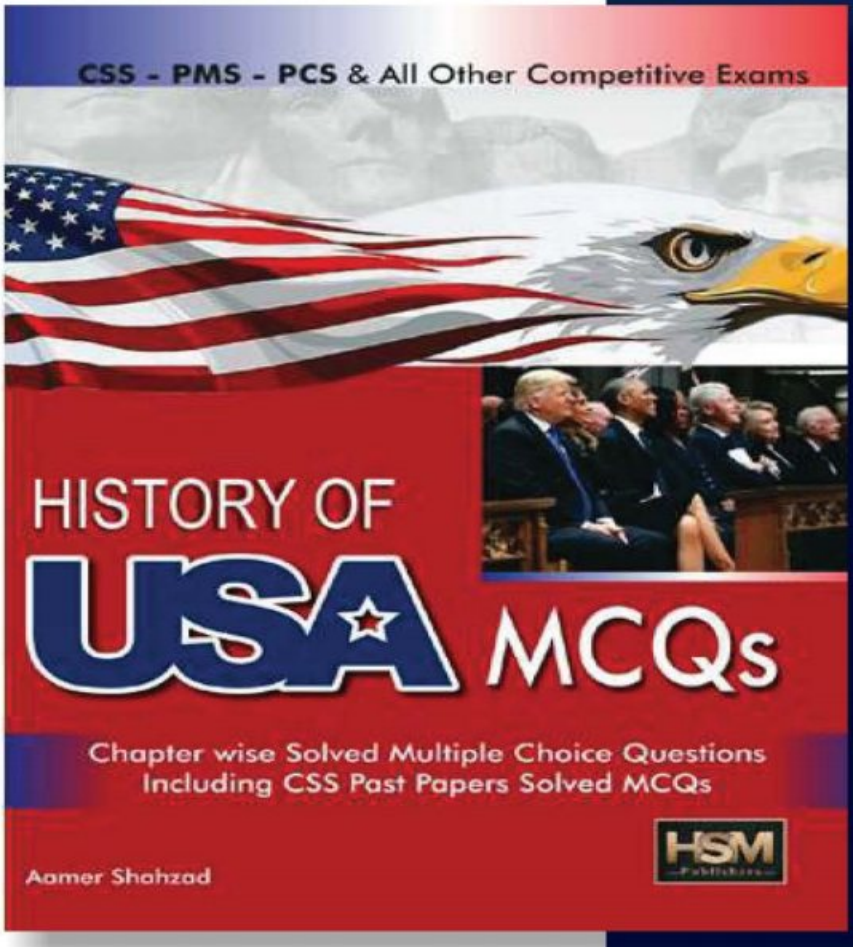

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ARTICLE 10A

Right to fair trial: For the determination of his civil rights and obligations or in any criminal charge against him a person shall be entitled to a fair trial and due process.

ARTICLE 11

All forms of forced labour, slavery and traffic in human beings are prohibited.

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ARTICLE 12

Protection against retrospective punishment.

ARTICLE 13

Protection against double punishment and self-incrimination.

ARTICLE 14

The dignity of man and, subject to law, the privacy of home, shall be inviolable. No person shall be subjected to torture for the purpose of extracting evidence.

ARTICLE 15: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, ETC.

Every citizen shall have the right to remain in, and, subject to any reasonable restriction imposed by law in the public interest, enter and move freely throughout Pakistan and to reside and settle in any part thereof.

ARTICLE 16: FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Every citizen shall have the right to assemble peacefully and without arms, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of public order.

ARTICLE 17: FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Every citizen shall have the right to form associations or unions, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of sovereignty or integrity of Pakistan, public order or morality.

ARTICLE 18

Freedom of trade, business or profession.

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ARTICLE 19: FREEDOM OF SPEECH, ETC.

Every citizen shall have the right to freedom of speech and expression, and there shall be freedom of the press, subject to any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the interest of the glory of Islam or the integrity, security or defence of Pakistan.

ARTICLE 19-A: RIGHT TO INFORMATION

Every citizen shall have the right to have access to information in all matters of public importance subject to regulation and reasonable restrictions imposed by law.

ARTICLE 20

Freedom to profess religion and to manage religious institutions.

ARTICLE 21

Safeguard against taxation for purposes of any particular religion.

ARTICLE 22

Safeguards as to educational institutions in respect of religion, etc.

ARTICLE 23

Every citizen shall have the right to acquire, hold and dispose of property in any part of Pakistan, subject to the Constitution and any reasonable restrictions imposed by law in the public interest.

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ARTICLE 24

Protection of property rights.

ARTICLE 25: EQUALITY OF CITIZENS

All citizens are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection by the law. Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees the equality of all citizens without any discrimination on the basis of gender. Despite that, keeping in view the state of women and children in the country, nothing in this article can prevent the State from making any special provision for the protection of women and children.

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ARTICLE 25-A: RIGHT TO EDUCATION

The provision of free and compulsory education is a fundamental human right. Article 25-A guarantees the provision of free and compulsory education to all children aged 5-16 years in such a manner as may be determined by the law.

ARTICLE 26

Non-discrimination in respect of access to public places.

ARTICLE 27

Safeguard against discrimination in services.

ARTICLE 28

Preservation of language, script and culture.

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ARTICLE 36

The State shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in the Federal and Provincial services.

ARTICLE 37-B

Remove illiteracy and provide free and compulsory secondary education within minimum possible period.

ARTICLE 40

The State shall endeavour to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity, support the common interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

ARTICLE 41

There shall be a President of Pakistan who shall be the Head of State and shall represent the unity of the Republic.

ARTICLE 140-A

Each Province shall, by law, establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to the

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elected representatives of the local governments.

ARTICLE 243

The Federal Government shall have control and command of the Armed Forces. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces shall vest in the President.

ARTICLE 245

The Armed Forces shall, under the directions of the Federal Government, defend Pakistan against external aggression or threat of war, and, subject to law, act in aid of civil power when called upon to do so.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF PAKISTAN

1. The constitution of Pakistan provides for the overarching guiding principles to run the affairs of the country.
2. According to the Constitution, the official name of the country is 'Islamic Republic of Pakistan'.
3. The preamble of the constitutions very clearly articulates that sovereignty over the entire Universe belongs to Almighty Allah alone, and the authority to be exercised by the people of Pakistan within the limits prescribed by Him is a sacred trust.
4. It is the will of the people of Pakistan to establish an order: Wherein the State shall exercise its powers and authority through the chosen representatives of the people.
5. Wherein the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam, shall be fully observed.
6. Wherein the Muslims shall be enabled to order their lives in the individual and collective spheres in accordance with the teachings and requirements of Islam as set out in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.
7. Wherein adequate provision shall be made for the minorities freely to profess and practise their religions and develop their cultures.
8. Wherein the territories now included in or in accession with Pakistan and such other territories as may hereafter be included in or accede to Pakistan shall form a Federation wherein the units will be autonomous with such boundaries and limitations on their powers and authority as may be prescribed.

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9. Therein shall be guaranteed fundamental rights, including equality of status, of opportunity and before law, social, economic and political justice, and freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship and association, subject to law and public morality.

10. Wherein adequate provision shall be made to safeguard the legitimate interests of minorities and backward and depressed classes.

11. Wherein the independence of the judiciary shall be fully secured.

12. Wherein the integrity of the territories of the Federation, its independence and all its rights, including its sovereign rights on land, sea and air, shall be safeguarded.

13. So that the people of Pakistan may prosper and attain their rightful and honoured place amongst the nations of the World and make their full contribution towards international peace and progress and happiness of humanity :

Now, therefore, we, the people of Pakistan,

Cognizant of our responsibility before Almighty Allah and men;

Cognizant of the sacrifices made by the people in the cause of Pakistan;

Faithful to the declaration made by the Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, that Pakistan would be a democratic State based on Islamic principles of social justice;

Dedicated to the preservation of democracy achieved by the unremitting struggle of the people against oppression and tyranny;

Inspired by the resolve to protect our national and political unity and solidarity by creating an egalitarian society through a new order;

Do hereby, through our representatives in the National Assembly, adopt, enact and give to ourselves, this Constitution.

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GENERAL FACTS ABOUT PAKISTAN

A

1. Sialkot, located in Pakistan, is the world's largest producer of handsewn footballs. Local factories in the region produce 40-60 million footballs a year, which is roughly 50-70% of the world's total production. The football manufacturing industry now consists of more than 200 factories.
2. Pakistan is the world's first Islamic country to attain nuclear power.
3. Pakistan has the highest paved international road –Karakoram Highway (KKH).
4. Pakistan has the largest canal-based irrigation system in the world.
5. Pakistan has the world's largest ambulance network. Pakistan's Edhi Foundation, which is also listed in the Guinness World Records, operates the network.
6. The highest batting partnership formed by two players playing in their first Test matches in the sport of cricket is 249 runs by Khalid Ibadulla (b. December 20, 1935) and Abdul Kadir (1944-2002) for Pakistan against Australia in Karachi, Pakistan, in the match played 24-29 October 1964. Wasim Akram, a former Pakistani fast bowler is the first to take 400 wickets in both Tests and ODIs (second being Muttiah Muralitharan).
7. Pakistan's estimated population was 207,774,520 in August 2017, making it the world's sixth most populous country, behind Brazil and ahead of Nigeria.
8. The name Pakistan means 'land of the pure' in Persian and Urdu.
9. Just two people have won the Nobel Prize from Pakistan. Malala Yousafzai for Peace in 2014 and Dr. Abdus Salam for Physics in 1979.
10. Malaya Yousafzai – defied the Taliban in Pakistan and demanded that girls be allowed to receive an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012, but survived and went on to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

B

11. Pakistan boasts the world's highest ATM (automated teller machine). The ATM is operated by the National Bank of Pakistan and it is installed at a height of 16,007 feet above sea level, at the Pak-China border, Khunjerab Pass.

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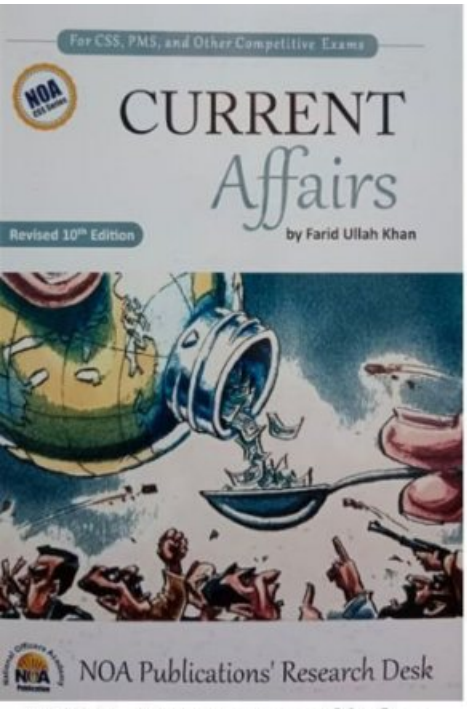

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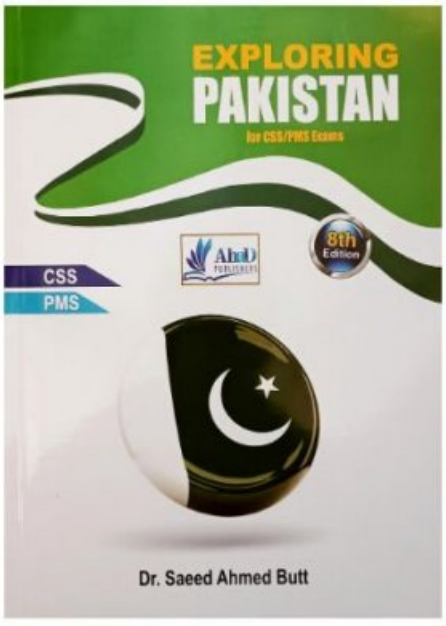

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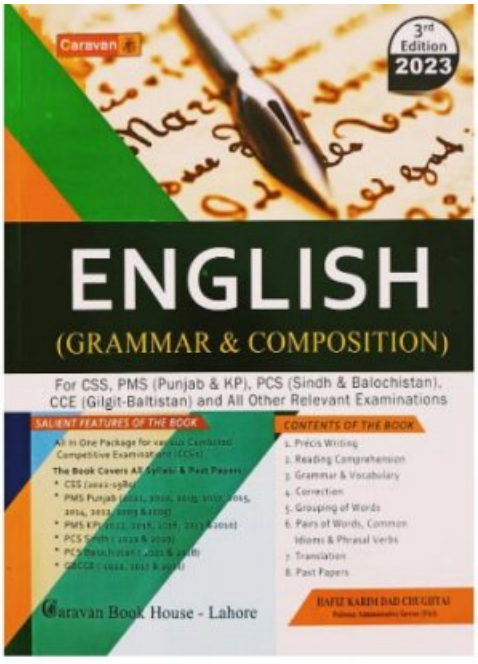

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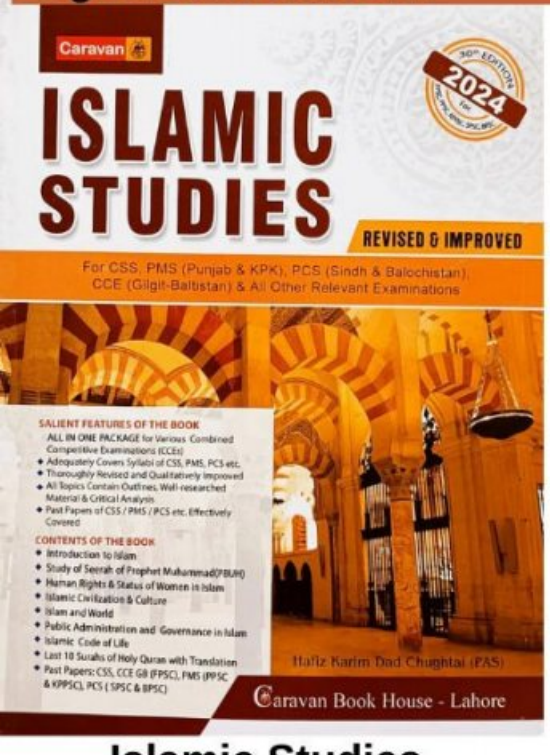

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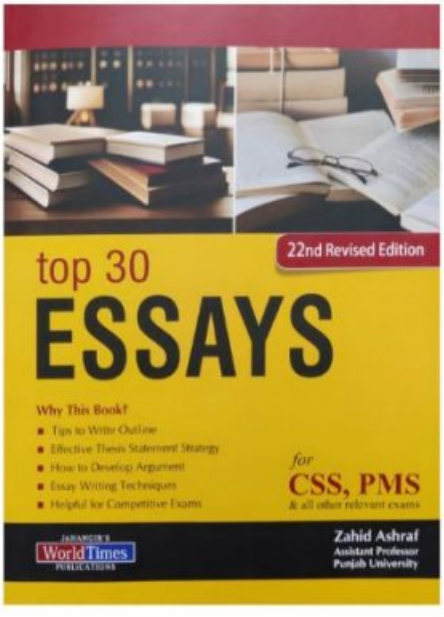

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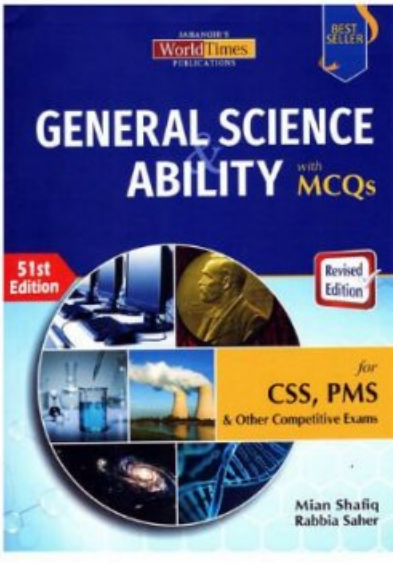

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12. Karachi, the largest city of Pakistan, is its financial hub as well as home to almost 17 million people. It also has a major seaport. Karachi was the first capital city of Pakistan post-independence and remained so until the capital was shifted to Rawalpindi in 1958.

13. India and Pakistan got their independence at midnight of 14-15 August 1947. The Indian Independence Act states – "As from the fifteenth day of August, nineteen hundred and forty-seven, two independent Dominions shall be set up in India, to be known respectively as India and Pakistan."

14. Queen Elizabeth II was the Queen of Pakistan until 1956. Former US President Barack Obama visited Pakistan in 1981.

15. Sugarcane juice is the national drink of Pakistan. In Pakistan, it is also known as "roh."

16. Pakistan levies 5% advance tax on annual expenses made related to education, however, only when the total expense is above Rs. 200,000 during a year.

17. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was founded on October 23, 1946 as Orient Airways. The airline was nationalized on January, 1955. The airline has a world record for flying the fastest between London and Karachi. The airline achieved this feat in 1962 when they completed the flight in 6 hours, 43 minutes, 55 seconds, a record which remains unbroken to this day.

18. K-2 (Chagori) is the highest mountain peak in Pakistan and the second highest in the world.

FLAG OF PAKISTAN

The national flag of Pakistan. Green with a vertical white band (symbolizing the role of religious minorities) on the hoist side; a large white crescent and star are centred in the green colour; the crescent, star, and colour green are traditional symbols of Islam.

FAMOUS MOUNTAIN PEAKS OF PAKISTAN, THEIR TOTAL HEIGHT, AND WORLD RATINGS

Peak	Height	World Rating
K-2 (Chagori)	8616 m	2nd
Nanga Parbat	8125 m	8th
Gasherbrum-I	8068 m	11th
Broad Peak	8065 m	12th
Gasherbrum-II	8047 m	14th
Gasherbrum-III	7952 m	15th

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Gasherbrum-IV	7925 m	16th
Disteghil Sar	7885 m	20th
Kunyang Kish	7852 m	22nd
Masherbrum (NE)	7821 m	24th
Rakaposhi	7788 m	27th
Batura I	7785 m	28th
Kanjut Sar	7760 m	29th
Saltoro Kangri	7742 m	33rd
Trivor	7720 m	36th
Tirich Mir	7708 m	41st

C

1. There also have a rare species of 'Blind Dolphin' found in the water of Indus River. It is the second most endangered freshwater dolphin species in the world, the first being the 'functionally extinct' Yangtze River dolphin.
2. Pakistan also made history with the youngest civil judge in the world. Mohammed Ilyas passed the exam when he was 20 years and 9 months old and thus became the youngest civil judge in the world.
3. The 'Khewra Salt Mine' in Pakistan is the second largest and oldest salt mine in the world.
4. Pakistan has the only fertile desert in the world –Tharparkar desert – located in Sindh.
5. Pakistan has the eleventh-largest armed force in the world. It has 617,000 people in its army. UN peacekeeping missions are supported largely by the Pakistani army.
6. According to a survey, Pakistan has one of the world's top national anthem tunes. The duration of Pakistan's National Anthem is 80 seconds.
7. Pakistanis are the fourth-most intelligent people in the world, according to poll results gathered from 125 countries by the Institute of European Business Administration.
8. The world's seventh-largest collection of scientists and engineers is from Pakistan.
9. The world's longest glacial system outside the Polar Regions – Biafo Glacier – is in Pakistan.

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10. The largest earth-filled dam in the world (and fifth largest by structural volume) is the 'Tarbela Dam' on the Indus River in Pakistan. The dam was built in 1968 and 1976. The dam is 143.26 metres high and 2,743.2 metres long.

D

11. Out of the total land area in Pakistan, 25 percent is under agricultural cultivation. Pakistan irrigates three times more land area than Russia.
12. The once world's largest man-made forest is in Pakistan – Changa Manga forest (12,423 acres in area). It is named after two brother dacoits, the Changa Manga forest was originally planted in 1866 by British foresters.
13. Pakistan is also blessed with Jahangir Khan, a former World No. 1 professional squash player. Between 1981 and 1986, he won 555 matches consecutively (the longest winning streak by any athlete in top-level professional sports as recorded by Guinness World Records).
14. Islamabad is ranked the second most beautiful capital in the world.
15. For the passenger trains in Pakistan, the railway uses, 5 ft 6 in wide gauge, the size of a broad track gauge which is also commonly used in India, west of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Chile. Elsewhere it is known as "Indian gauge". It is the widest gauge in regular passenger use anywhere in the world.
16. Pakistan has some of the best-trained air force pilots in the world.
17. The Shah Faisal Mosque in Pakistan can accommodate 100,000 worshipers at a time. It was the largest mosque in the world from 1986 until 1993.
18. The Shah Faisal Mosque, Pakistan. It is named after Saudi King Faisal, who provided a $120 million grant for the construction of the mosque in 1976.
19. Late M. M. Alam, Air Commodore from Pakistan, is known to have shot five planes in less than a minute during the Indo-Pak War of 1965.
20. Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, has a population of 2,006,572 (2017). Islamabad officially became the capital of Pakistan on August 14, 1967, exactly 20 years after the country's independence.

E

21. Pakistan is so far the only nation in the world to get established on the basis of 'religion'.
22. Pakistan is the only Muslim country after Turkey to open combat jobs for women.

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23. Shandur Pass located in Chitral District and Ghizer (Gherz) District, Balawaristan, is home to the world's highest polo ground at 3,700 metres. Since 1936, traditional polo festival is being held on Shandur Top.

24. Pakistan is also home to the world's second-largest Muslim population, behind Indonesia. Note that India is home to the world's third-largest Muslim population.

25. An earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck the Kashmir region in Pakistan on October 8, 2005. The earthquake caused displacement of approximately 3 million people.

26. The majority of Pakistan's population is Muslim, amounting to 96.4%, while the rest includes Hindus and Christians.

27. Pakistan generated a whopping $1 billion in freelancing in the year 2017. Freelancing is the way of providing technical expertise via the internet. Pakistan ranks on the fourth spot behind India, Bangladesh, and the United States.

28. The borders of Pakistan were drawn two days after on August 17, 1947, after the separation of India and Pakistan.

29. Gwadar port is the largest deep sea port in the world, located on the southwestern Arabian Sea along the coastline of Balochistan. The port has an area of 64,000 square metres and has a depth of more than 14 metres.

30. In 1965, Pakistan had a second war with India over Kashmir. The 17-day war caused thousands of casualties on both sides, and also witnessed the largest tank battle since World War II.

F

31. Pakistan and India both claimed victory in the war of 1965, which ended after a ceasefire declaration by the intervention of the Soviet Union and the United States.

32. Ms. Benazir Bhutto became the first female prime minister of Pakistan, and of any Muslim nation.

33. Pakistan is also home to a lake which is one of a kind – Ansoo Lake (Tear Lake). The shape of the lake resembles that of a tear. The lake also looks like a human eye with an eyebrow, which becomes prominent during the summer days when the ice melts. The lake has a central island which resembles the iris.

34. Masjid-e-Tooba or Tooba Mosque, Karachi is known as the Gol Masjid or Round Mosque. The mosque was completed in 1969 and can house 5,000 faithful.

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35. Pakistan is also home to the largest single dome mosque in the world – Masjid-e-Tooba. The mosque is located in Karachi and is locally known as the Gol Masjid. The dome of the mosque is 212 ft in diameter and is 51.48 ft high. It is balanced on a low surrounding wall with no central pillars. It was built in 1969.

36. Located at the northern end of the Kaghan Valley, Lake Saiful Muluk, is one of the highest lakes in Pakistan, at an elevation of 3,224 m (10,578 feet) above sea level.

37. In the last five years, Pakistan's literacy rate has grown by 250%, the largest increase in any country to date.

38. The sunset picture of Mohenjo-daro that is the UNESCO world heritage site, in Sindh.

39. Mohenjo-daro is an archaeological site in Sindh. It was one of the largest and most advanced cities in the world during its time (built around 2500 BCE).

There are 6 cultural properties from Pakistan inscribed on the World Heritage List.

- Archaeological Ruins at Moenjo-daro (1980)
- Buddhist Ruins of Takht-i-Bahi and Neighbouring City Remains at Sahr-i-Bahlol (1980)
- Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (1981)
- Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta (1981)
- Rohtas Fort (1997)
- Taxila (1980)

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40. Makli Hill located in Thatta, is home to over half a million tombs and graves. It is one of the largest necropolis (a large, designed cemetery with elaborate tomb monuments) in the world. The tombs were built over a period of 400 years between the 14th and 18th centuries.

G

41. Gaddani, Pakistan is also home to the world's third-largest ship breaking yard.

42. The Badshahi Mosque, Lahore is one of the world's largest mosques. It was built by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1671 and its construction completed in 1673. However, the mosque was largely used for military purposes during the Sikh era and the British rule for many years until the independence of Pakistan when it was restored to its original condition.

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43. Darra Adam Khel is a city situated in Khyber District. Almost three-quarters of the population of the city, generally regarded as the largest illegal gun market in the world, is involved in the gun business. Replicas of nearly every gun available on the market are produced in the region. The business came into existence in 1897 and is run by the local Afridi tribe.
44. Sohail Abbas, a Pakistani field hockey defender, is the highest goal scorer in the history of field hockey, with his goal tally at 348.
45. Pakistan is also famous for truck art (decorating trucks with complex floral patterns and poetic calligraphy). Trucks are painted with a splash of colours and the artists' creativity is very appealing.
46. When Pakistan became independent, it received between 10 and 12 million refugees from different parts of India. Many of these people had lost everything they had and used a different language for communicating with the locals. Pakistanis smilingly welcomed these people to their nation and helped them to lead a prosperous life.
47. Sylvester Stallone's Rambo III was shot in Pakistan.
48. On May 2, 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by US Special Forces during a raid in Abbottabad. He was the leader of Al Qaeda.
49. In 2013, Lonely Planet – the largest travel guide book publisher in the world – titled Pakistan, 'The Next Big Thing'.
50. Shalwar kameez is the traditional Pakistani dress, which is worn by 80 percent or 90 percent of Pakistanis.

H

51. Pakistani intelligence is considered the best intelligence corps in the world, even better than the CIA.
52. Pakistan is also known for its missile technology, which is one of the best in the world.
53. Pakistan is world's fourth largest milk producing country while India tops the list.
54. Pakistan is also one of the top producers and exporters of surgical instruments in the world. According to a source, almost 99 percent of these instruments are produced in Sialkot.

SOME QUICK STATS AND FACTS

A

1. On November 29, 2007, Musharraf took the oath as president for the third time.

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2. The Pakistani rupee is the official currency of Pakistan.
3. The markhor is the national animal of Pakistan. Its national bird is the chukar partridge.
4. March 23rd is Pakistan's Republic Day or "Pakistan Day."
5. In 1973, Pakistan adopted a constitution for the parliamentary system of government.
6. Port Muhammad Bin Qasim is the major port in Karachi.
7. Allama Muhammad Iqbal is the National Poet of Pakistan.
8. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948) is the Father of the Nation of Pakistan.
9. Mango is the national fruit of Pakistan, and its national flower is Jasmine.
10. Moenjo-daro, Harappa, Taxila, Kot Diji, Mehr Garh, Takht Bhai, Juniper Shaft cave, the Murghagull Gharra cave and Mughall saa cave are major archaeological sites in Pakistan.

B

11. Pakistan's major crops include cotton, wheat, rice and sugarcane.
12. Textiles, cement, fertilizer, steel, sugar, electric goods and shipbuilding are the major industries in Pakistan.
13. A total length of 11,881 km is covered by railways in Pakistan. Out of this length, 11,492 km is the broad gauge, while 389 km is the narrow gauge.
14. There is 263,942 km of roadway infrastructure in Pakistan, out of which 708 km is the expressway.
15. A person at the age of 18 is qualified to vote in Pakistan.
16. The Supreme Court is the highest court in Pakistan.
17. The United States, Hong Kong, Germany, United Kingdom, Japan and the United Arab Emirates are major export trade partners of Pakistan.
18. Pakistan imports: machinery, electrical goods, petroleum products, transportation equipment, metals and metal products, fertilizer and foodstuffs.
19. Afghanistan, China, India, and Iran share a border with Pakistan.
20. Pakistan's national language is Urdu, while its official language is English.

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GLOBAL WARMING, NATURAL DISASTERS AND PAKISTAN

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PAKISTAN - FLOODS

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

33 MILLION	20.6 MILLION	205,000	2.3 MILLION	1,731
Estimated Flood-Affected People in Pakistan	Estimated People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance	Estimated People Remain Displaced Due to the Floods	Estimated Houses Damaged or Destroyed Due to the Floods	Estimated Flood-Related Deaths in Pakistan
GoP – October 2022	*UN – October 2022*	*UN – January 2023*	*GoP – October 2022*	*GoP – October 2022*

- The onset of extreme low winter temperatures intensifies the risk of diseases and protection concerns for flood-affected communities across Pakistan.
- Flood-related damages to agriculture and livelihoods exacerbates food security concerns, with 8.6 million people facing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity as of December.
- Flooding and subsequent internal displacement expose 13.5 million people to heightened protection risks, as vulnerable populations experience physical danger and unsafe shelter conditions.

KEY FACTS

The floods affected all the four provinces of Pakistan and approximately 15 percent of its population. At the beginning of 2023 and several months after the worst of the flooding, an estimated 5 million people remained exposed to or living close to flooded areas. In Sindh, an estimated 89,000 people remain displaced from their homes.

- Since the monsoon season began in mid-June, floods have affected at least 33 million people and killed at least 1,739 as of November. 18.
- 20.6 million people require humanitarian assistance.

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- According to the post-disaster needs assessment, the flooding caused $14.9 billion in damages and $15.2 billion in economic losses. Estimated needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction in a resilient way are at least $16.3 billion.
- Multidimensional poverty could potentially increase by 5.9 percentage points, meaning that an additional 1.9 million households are at risk of being pushed into poverty.
- The food security situation of an estimated additional 1.1 million people is deteriorating and is forecast to fall into IPC 4 (emergency food security phase) between January-March 2023. In early December, more than 5.1 million people were experiencing IPC 4 conditions in flood-affected areas.
- More than 1.2 million livestock have been killed since mid-June, with severe repercussions on the livelihoods of affected households and the supply of animal products, including milk and meat.
- According to officials, the floods affected nearly 15 percent of Pakistan's rice crop and 40 percent of its cotton crop. The country could face severe food shortages.
- The floods displaced at least 7.9 million people. In Sindh, more than 89,000 people remain displaced as of January. 2, down from 6.5 million in early September.
- The Pakistan 2022 Floods Response Plan was jointly launched on August. 30 by the government of Pakistan and the UN. A revised Floods Response Plan was released on October. 4 and seeks $816 million to provide humanitarian assistance to 9.5 million people.
- More than 2.1 million homes have been damaged or destroyed by the floods.
- As of December. 30, humanitarian partners had provided assistance to an estimated 5.74 million people, including 5.5 million people in the food security and agriculture sector.
- As of August. 25, Pakistan received nearly 15 inches (375 millimetres) of rainfall, almost three times higher than the national 30-year average of 5 inches (130 millimetres). Balochistan received five times its average 30-year rainfall.

EDUCATION

- According to the Pakistan Education Sector Working Group, the large-scale destruction of school facilities has interrupted the education of 3.5 million children. As of October. 20, floods have damaged or destroyed 26,632 schools in the country.

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- As of late October, an estimated 7,602 schools were being used to accommodate displaced people, meaning they are not being used for ongoing access to education and protection for children. Standing water and submergence of some schools prevent complete assessments of the damages incurred and the restoration of schools and learning centres. The floods hit just as the country was preparing to start the new academic year, affecting thousands of children.

LIVELIHOODS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), some 9.4 million acres of crop area in Pakistan were potentially inundated in August, including 4.8 million acres in Sindh, 2.7 million acres in Punjab, 1.2 million acres in Balochistan and 714,000 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. At least 1.2 million livestock have been killed, with severe repercussions on the livelihoods of affected households and the supply of animal products, including milk and meat.
- According to officials, the floods affected nearly 15 percent of Pakistan's rice crop and 40 percent of its cotton crop. Floodwaters wiped out the personal grain stores that many farming families rely on for food yearlong.
- Already concerning was the uptick in inflation based on the consumer price index, which according to the World Food Programme, "increased in August 2022 for the eighth consecutive month: 2.45% over July 2022; and 27.26% over August 2021, the highest in 47 years (since 1975)." In some parts of Pakistan, the price of a kilogram of rice has reportedly risen by nearly 80 percent since January 2022.
- Sindh province accounts for nearly one-quarter of the country's agricultural output, so the damage to crops there and reduced harvests may have implications for food security in Pakistan. The loss of crops and livestock could push families under pressure further into poverty.
- The post-disaster needs assessment said poverty could potentially increase by 5.9 percentage points, meaning that an additional 1.9 million households are at risk of being pushed into poverty. In addition to impacts being felt by farmers and herders, Pakistan's fishers are also struggling.
- According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' (UNOCHA)'s December. 6 situation report, "A recent need and gaps analysis by partners in the food security sector indicates a persistent and increasing need for emergency food assistance moving into the first quarter

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of 2023. A failure to address this need would worsen the already frail food security situation and drive more people into crisis and emergency levels."

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- Worsening the humanitarian situation is the significant damage to roads, bridges and telecommunications across the country. The floods damaged more than 8,000 miles (13,000 kilometres) of roads and 410 bridges, hampering people's ability to seek safety and reach markets. Sindh is the most affected, with 64 percent of the total road damage and 40 percent of the bridge damage nationwide. The floods also caused "unprecedented damage" to Pakistan's rail network.
- Internet outages have been reported, with the Pakistan Telecommunication. Authority attributing the cuts to faults in the fiberoptic network resulting from the floods. Flash floods and landslides are compounded by the inability of existing infrastructure to cope with the extraordinary amount of water.
- Water infrastructure has suffered significant damage, and the flood-affected health system is impaired in addressing and mitigating the risk of a major public health crisis. Damaged health infrastructure and inadequate water and sanitation have compounded the risk of measles and rubella, along with water-borne, skin, and acute respiratory illnesses.

SHELTER

- The floods have caused total or partial damage to 2.1 million homes, a staggering statistic.
- While compensation for deaths was paid quickly, in late October affected people were still waiting for repair and reconstruction aid. An example of the results of the enormous needs combined with very limited resources so far is that the Shelter Sector was forced to reduce shelter assistance to include just one tarpaulin per household, halving the normal international standards for humanitarian response. The precarious shelter conditions are complicated by the coming winter. Of the affected population, some 4 million live in provinces where the temperature falls below freezing.
- According to UNOCHA's January. 6 Situation Report, "IDPs [internally displaced persons] who are living in informal camps, self-settlement sites or in transitional shelters are more vulnerable to the cold weather. Returnees and people who remained in flood-affected areas and who continue to live in partially-damaged houses have bare minimums of basic insulation; their

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inadequacy to effectively face the cold season is often amplified by damaged leaking roofs, broken windows, cracked or collapsed perimetral walls."

HEALTH

- Health officials are warning of large-scale disease outbreaks following the flooding. They are very concerned about the potential spread of waterborne diseases, which will further strain health facilities.
- According to a January. 9 update, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) staff "are seeing alarmingly high numbers of people with malaria and children with malnutrition among flood-affected communities in Sindh and Balochistan.
- According to the revised Pakistan 2022 Floods Response Plan, "Damage to drinking supply systems and more than 1,460 public health facilities and their contents have reduced access to safe and clean water and inhibited the provision of health services at a time of increased need. Women are disproportionately affected, as they typically bear the burden of tasks such as collecting water for daily household needs and caring for the sick."
- The UN said malaria, typhoid and diarrhea cases were spreading quickly, with 44,000 cases of malaria reported the week of September. 19 in the southern Sindh province alone. Stagnating water has provided breeding sites for mosquitos, resulting in an ongoing malaria outbreak in 32 districts.
- Aadarsh Leghari, UNICEF's communication officer in Pakistan, told CNN, "There are no mosquito nets. It's the mosquitoes that are bringing in malaria and disease. The other is cholera… it's like a plethora of disease coming out of these floodwater lakes. This is going to turn into a bigger health crisis."
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of early December, malaria, cholera, acute watery diarrheal diseases and dengue fever were declining in most flood-affected districts. "However, high malaria and cholera cases are still being reported in some pocket districts in Sindh and Balochistan where standing water remains. In November 2022, around 70 suspected cases of Diphtheria were reported from the flood-affected provinces of KP, Sindh, and Punjab."
- The floods have had a significant impact on health, particularly for children.
- According to WHO, "Pakistan is among the top 10 countries in the world with a large pool of unvaccinated or under vaccinated children and is home to more than 600,000 children who have not received a single vaccine dose. The recent floods have compounded the problem, further reducing access to routine immunization services, especially in flood-affected districts."

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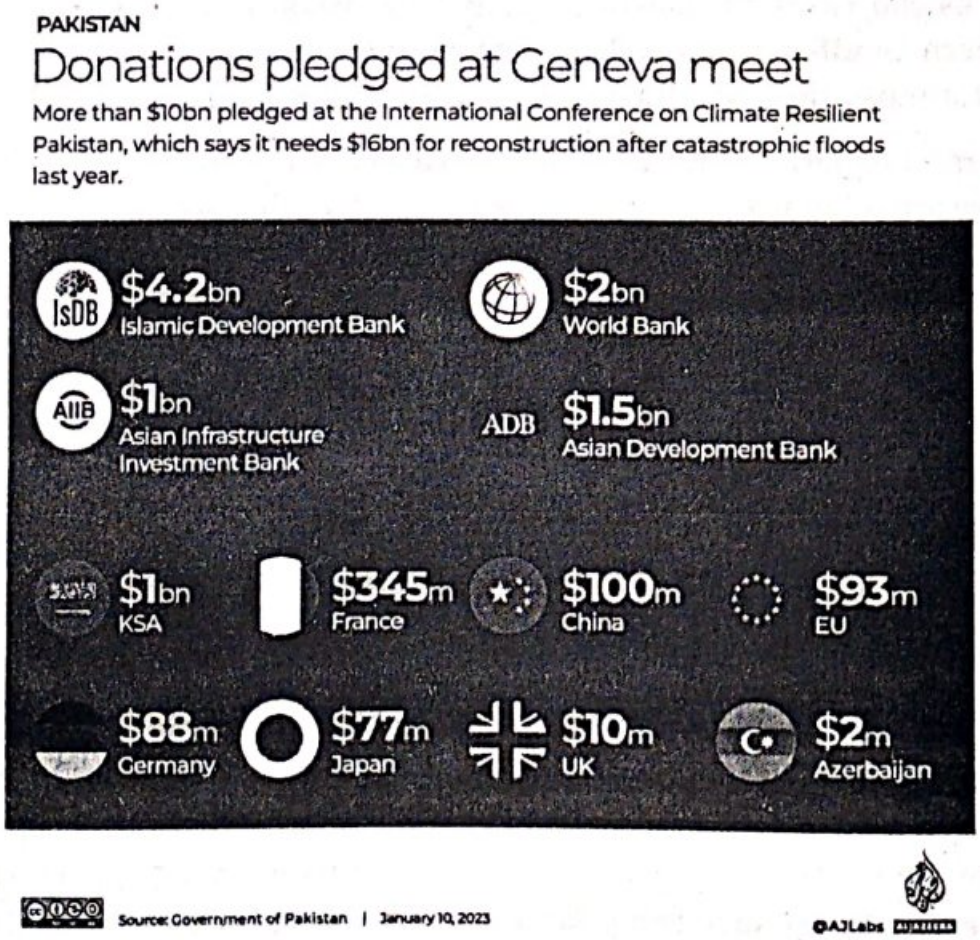
- Also worrying is that almost 650,000 women in flood-affected areas need maternity services, but damage to health facilities, limited medical supplies and challenges reaching functioning facilities prevents some women from getting the care they need. Experts fear an increase in infant mortality or health complications for mothers or children in a country that already has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in Asia. As of early November, approximately 136,950 births were expected in the next three months.
- The wild poliovirus has paralyzed another child in southern North Waziristan, Pakistan's 20th case in 2022. The government is concerned about the spread of the wild poliovirus as millions of people are displaced due to the flooding. On September. 28, partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and donors met in Islamabad to assess needs and discuss a path forward.
- On October. 4, the World Health Organization Director General said, "An urgent and robust response, supported by sustainable funding, is needed to control the spread of outbreaks, to support routine immunization, to urgently address severe acute malnutrition, and to provide life-saving essential health services."



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REPORTS

A

1. Climate change expected to increase Pakistan's exposure to floods: experts
2. Over 8m Pakistanis face hunger after floods: UN
3. Pakistan needs $348 billion to respond to climate, development challenges between 2023 and 2030: WB
4. Pakistan needs over $16 billion for post flood reconstruction: Report
5. Hyderabad will be Pakistan's hottest city by 2100: UN
6. Last seven years 'warmest on record' globally, says EU
7. COP27: Past 8 years on track to be hottest on record, says report
8. The FAO has warned that about 6m people can face acute food insecurity in 28 vulnerable districts of Balochistan, Sindh and KP.
9. The surface ozone levels can increase by 20 percent across Pakistan, northern India and Bangladesh by the middle of the century, warns a UN report
10. Global bodies had warned of a long and harsh heatwave in the subcontinent, with average temperatures registering an increase of 6°C to 8°C. Rainfall figures too have dropped, with 62 percent less rain so far this year.

B

11. Pakistan is one of the few countries to achieve the 'on track' status on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 which relates to climate action.
12. Pakistan ranks 14th among the 17 'extremely high water-risk' regions in the world, a list that includes hot and dry countries like Saudi Arabia.
13. Pakistan is among 23 countries which are facing drought emergencies over the past two years (2020-2022), according to the 'Global Land Outlook' report released by the United Nations.
14. According to the Global Food Policy Report 2022, heatwaves such as the ongoing one in the country will increase at the shocking rate of 0.71 days per decade in Pakistan.
15. Pakistan has been listed as the 12th most negatively affected country owing to the effects of climate change on agriculture and livelihoods.

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16. Up to 4 million children still living next to contaminated floodwater in Pakistan: UNICEF
17. 30 percent air pollution in Punjab comes from India: WB
18. Phase out subsidies to bring efficiency to agri-food system: WB
19. The U.N. chief tells the climate summit: Cooperate or perish
20. According to a report by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Pakistan, the Indus River, the longest in the country, has reduced flow and coverage area due to encroachments and illegal mass settlements close to its banks.

C

21. Wrong planning, administrative lapses caused flooding: experts
22. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Pakistan is home to at least 177 mammal and 660 bird species, making it one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.
23. Toxic air kills over 128,000 Pakistanis every year.

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REGION

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REPORTS ON AFGHANISTAN RECONCILIATION PROCESS

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A

1. TTP 'too big to handle' for Afghan Taliban: UN report
2. Taliban committing crimes against humanity, warn UN experts
3. Afghanistan still biggest humanitarian crisis: UN
4. Afghan women are world's most repressed: UN mission
5. According to the UNHCR, 25 million Afghans have been pushed into poverty, half the population is reliant on aid for survival, while a million children face "severe malnutrition".
6. More than half the population of Afghanistan – a record 22.8 million people – will face acute food insecurity, highlights the World Food Programme.
7. A staggering 95 percent of the Afghan population is not eating enough food, with that percentage rising to almost 100 percent for female-headed households, warns a UN report.
8. The US military spent $14 trillion during two decades of war in Afghanistan and the Middle East, enriching arm manufacturers, dealers and contractors.
9. According to UN statistics, nearly half of the Afghanistan's population faces crisis levels of hunger.
10. The World Food Programme estimates 3.2 million children in Afghanistan are at the risk of acute malnutrition.

B

11. UNDP fears 97 percent of Afghans could fall under the poverty line unless urgent steps are not taken to address the humanitarian crisis.
12. Casualties in Afghanistan, Iraq much higher than US admitted: NYT
13. World Press Freedom Index Report 2021 announced two of the four deadliest countries for journalists – India and Afghanistan – are from South Asia.

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14. According to Human Rights Watch, the Taliban track reporters online, leaving chilling warnings on Facebook feeds or via text message, or detain them overnight.

15. The UN World Food Programme has called for urgent action to protect millions of Afghans from starvation. It has warned that over 22.8 million Afghans, who constitute nearly half the total population, are facing food insecurity while 3.2 million children under the age of five can suffer from acute malnutrition.

16. Afghanistan is on the brink of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, UN agencies warned, with more than half the country facing "acute" food shortages.

17. 88,000 Afghans evacuated since August 14, 2021.

18. Osama's involvement in 9/11 was never proven, say Taliban.

19. UN warns of up to 500,000 more Afghan refugees by year-end.

20. Experts say that 18 million of the total 38 million Afghans will need aid to be fed and if the aid flow stops, within months a critical situation could develop.

C

21. The United States said it had completed the withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan following a chaotic airlift nearly 20 years after it had invaded the country in the wake of the September 11, 2001, attacks.

22. Between 2001 and 2020, the US spent $144 billion revivifying Afghan security forces. Since 2014, the NATO coalition managed a non-combat Resolute Support Mission.

23. Pakistan's bilateral trade with Afghanistan saw a sudden rise since the Taliban took control of Kabul.

24. The Taliban took over Afghanistan with astonishing speed, but it appears unlikely that they will get quick access to most of the Afghan central banks roughly $10 billion in assets.

25. EU, US 'deeply worried' about Afghan women, girls.

26. The United States spent $290 million every day for 7,300 days on its war efforts and nation-building projects in Afghanistan, says a report compiled by Brown University.

27. Taliban thank world for pledging $1.2 billion in assistance.

28. The US State Department has urged Pakistan to play a constructive role in persuading the Taliban to fulfil their commitments.

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29. Girls will be allowed to return to schools: Taliban

30. The UN released emergency funds to help prevent Afghanistan's battered healthcare system from collapsing, with the WHO chief warning of an imminent catastrophe.

D

31. 10,800 Afghan refugees approach UNHCR.

32. Doha deal enabled Taliban to take Kabul, says former Afghan envoy.

33. Refugees from Afghanistan crossing the Balochistan border going up from 6,000 to 20,000 daily, according to one media report.

34. Number of Afghans entering Pakistan, Iran remains 'small': UNHCR

35. India has lost its investment in Afghanistan – around $3 billion or so since 2001 – and its strategic leverage says *The Economist*.

36. The UNDP says prolonged drought, the COVID-19 pandemic and political upheaval could cause Afghanistan's poverty rate to soar to 97 percent by mid-2022.

37. BRICS leaders call for peaceful settlement in Afghanistan.

38. Donors pledge $1.1 billion for 'collapsing' Afghanistan.

39. Sixty-five journalists, media professionals and human rights defenders were killed in Afghanistan between January 1, 2018 and January 31, 2021, says a UN report.

40. Famine is knocking at the doors of 41 million people in 43 countries, including Afghanistan, according to a UN report.

E

41. Al-Qaeda is present in at least 15 Afghan provinces, primarily in the eastern, southern and southeastern regions, says a United Nations report prepared for the Security Council.

42. Russia receives new orders for arms and helicopters from Central Asian republics bordering Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover of the country.

43. In Afghanistan, 46 percent of women aged 15-49 report sexual or physical abuse at the hands of their partner in the last 12 months, says the World Economic Forum.

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44. UN warns Afghanistan needs money to prevent total breakdown.

45. Pakistan says no recognition till Taliban fulfil promises.

46. In Afghanistan, food inflation is going through the roof for a population of nearly 18 million, with 95 percent of households not having enough to eat, according to the World Food Programme.

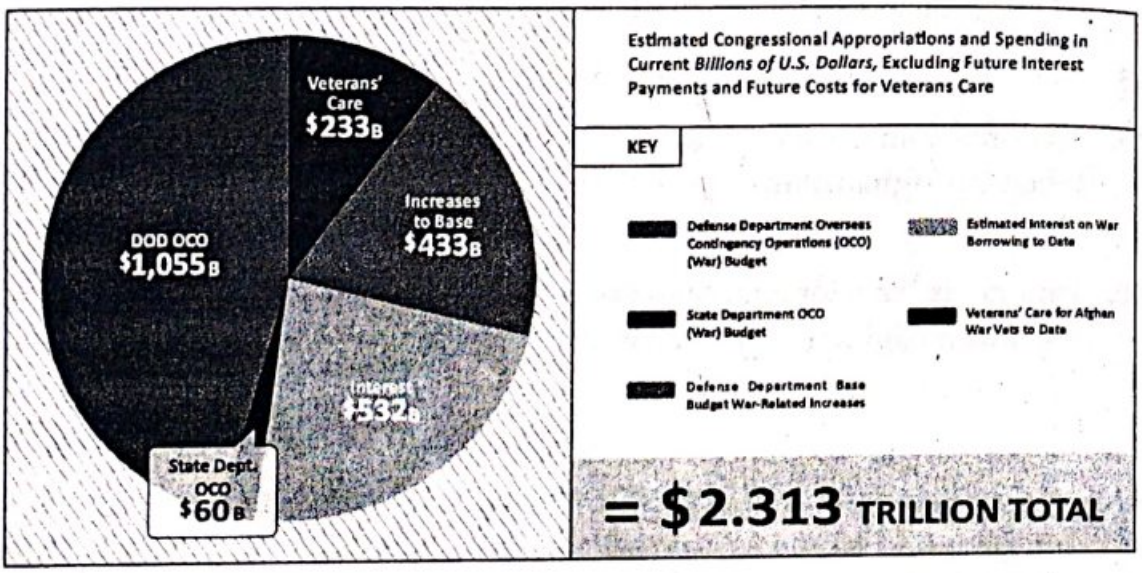
47. While there are around 1.3 million registered Afghan refugees, the unofficial number can be as high as 3 million, indicates the May 2020 study "Pakistan situation of Afghan Refugees," by the European Asylum Support Office.

48. The United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform focused on enhancing regional connectivity.

49. The United Nations has warned that nearly 23 million people, or 55 percent of the Afghan-population, are in crisis or will experience emergency levels of food insecurity between 2021 and 2022.

50. 60 percent of Afghans face 'crisis levels of hunger': UN

U.S. Costs to Date for the War in Afghanistan, in $ Billions FY2001-FY2022*



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REPORTS ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS

South Asian Affairs (2023-2024)

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

India-Pakistan Relations

- 2023: Tensions remained high with sporadic skirmishes along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir. Diplomatic efforts were minimal.
- 2024: Some thaw observed with back-channel talks, but no significant progress on major disputes.

Source: Reuters, Al Jazeera.

Afghanistan

- 2023: The Taliban government continued to struggle with international recognition and internal stability issues. Humanitarian crises persisted.
- 2024: Ongoing security challenges with sporadic violence. Some regional countries engaged in limited diplomatic and economic interactions.

Source: UNAMA, BBC.

Sri Lanka

- 2023: Political stability improved post-economic crisis of 2022, with new economic reforms and increased foreign aid.
- 2024: Economic recovery ongoing, though challenges remain in debt management and inflation control.

Source: World Bank, IMF.

Bangladesh

- 2023: General elections held with allegations of irregularities and opposition protests. Economic growth remained robust.
- 2024: Continued focus on economic development and infrastructure projects, with a stable political environment.

Source: The Guardian, World Bank.

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Nepal

- 2023: Political instability with frequent changes in government. Continued reliance on India and China for economic support.
- 2024: Efforts towards political stability with constitutional reforms and new elections.

Source: The Kathmandu Post, Al Jazeera.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Economic Growth

- 2023: South Asia's average economic growth rate was around 5.8%, driven by strong performance in India and Bangladesh.
- 2024: Projected to grow at 6.1%, with India and Bangladesh continuing to lead, while Pakistan and Sri Lanka recover from economic challenges.

Source: World Bank, IMF.

Inflation Rates

- 2023: Regional inflation averaged 8.5%, with high rates in Sri Lanka and Pakistan due to economic instability.
- 2024: Expected to moderate to 7%, assuming stabilization in crisis-hit economies.

Source: IMF, ADB.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Intra-Regional Trade

- 2023: Intra-regional trade remained low at 5% of total trade despite efforts by SAARC to enhance economic cooperation.
- 2024: Slight improvement anticipated with new trade agreements and infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing connectivity.

Source: SAARC, World Bank.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- 2023: FDI inflows to South Asia reached $67 billion, with India attracting the majority share.
- 2024: Expected to grow to $75 billion, with increasing interest in technology and infrastructure sectors.

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Source: UNCTAD, World Bank.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Poverty Rates

- 2023: Approximately 25% of South Asia's population lived below the poverty line, with significant variation across countries.
- 2024: Efforts to reduce poverty continue, with projections showing a slight decline to 23%.

Source: World Bank, UNDP.

Education and Literacy

- 2023: Regional literacy rate stood at 74%, with significant investments in education in Bangladesh and India.
- 2024: Expected to rise to 76%, driven by continued educational reforms and digital learning initiatives.

Source: UNESCO, World Bank.

Healthcare Access

- 2023: Access to healthcare improved, but disparities remained. Major health challenges included communicable diseases and malnutrition.
- 2024: Increased funding and international aid aimed at improving healthcare infrastructure and services.

Source: WHO, World Bank.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE ISSUES

Climate Change Impact

- 2023: South Asia faced severe climate-related events, including floods in Pakistan and heatwaves in India.
- 2024: Continued vulnerability to climate change with increased focus on adaptation and resilience-building projects.

Source: IPCC, UNDP.

Renewable Energy

- 2023: Renewable energy capacity reached 150 GW, with major contributions from India and Bangladesh.

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- 2024: Projected to grow to 170 GW, with significant investments in solar and wind energy projects.

Source: IRENA, World Bank.

SECURITY AND CONFLICT

Terrorism and Insurgency

- 2023: Persistent threats from terrorist groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Counter-terrorism efforts continued in coordination with international partners.
- 2024: Some reduction in major terrorist activities, but insurgent groups remain active in certain regions.

Source: Global Terrorism Index, SIPRI.

Border Disputes

- 2023: Ongoing border tensions between India and China in the Himalayan region, with occasional skirmishes.
- 2024: Continued diplomatic efforts to manage and resolve disputes, though underlying tensions persist.

Source: Reuters, The Diplomat.

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FACTS ABOUT SOUTH ASIA

South Asia, sub region of Asia, consisting of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and peninsular India. It includes the countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka; Afghanistan and the Maldives are often considered part of South Asia as well. The term is often used synonymously with "Indian subcontinent," though the latter term is sometimes used more restrictively to refer to Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan.

Area	5,134,641 km²
Population	1,970,014,121 (2021)
Population density	303/km²
GDP (nominal)	$3.461 trillion (2020)
GDP (PPP)	$12.752 trillion (2020)
GDP per capita	$1,908 (nominal) $7,029 (PPP)

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- South Asian population is equivalent to 24.89% of the total world population.
- Southern Asia is home to three bordering nuclear powers—China, India, and Pakistan—that continue to expand and modernize their arms programs.
- There are 16.7 million (5-17 year old) children in child labour in South Asia, according to conservative estimates, and of these 10.3 million are in the 5-14 year age group.
- The young, 5-11 year-old children, make up about one-fifth of all child labourers in South Asia.
- Substantial variation in child labour estimates exists across the South Asian countries. In absolute terms, child labour for the 5-17 years age group is highest in India (5.8 million), followed by Bangladesh (5.0 million), Pakistan (3.4 million) and Nepal (2.0 million).
- In relative terms, children in Nepal face the highest risk of being in child labour than elsewhere in South Asia, with over one-quarter (26 per cent) of all 5-17 year-olds engaged in child labour.

1. Despite fast-paced economic growth in some countries, food insecurity still poses a massive problem in South Asia. 295 million people, equivalent to 16.8% of the total population, are undernourished.

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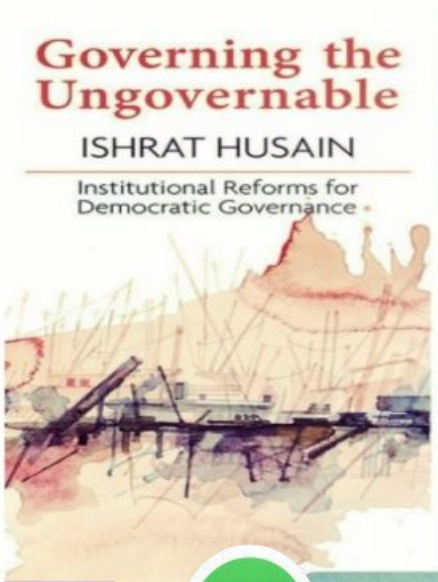

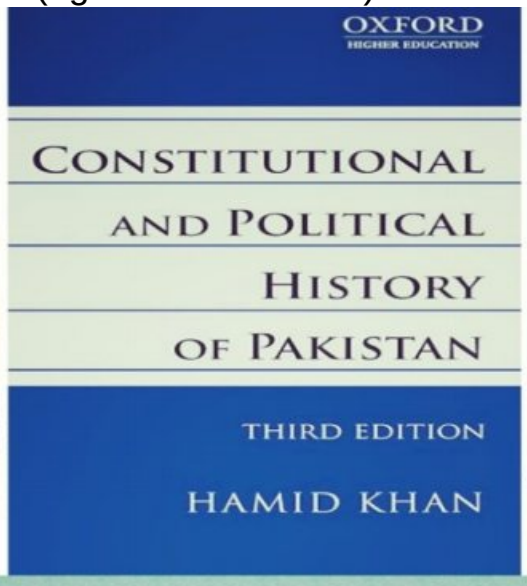

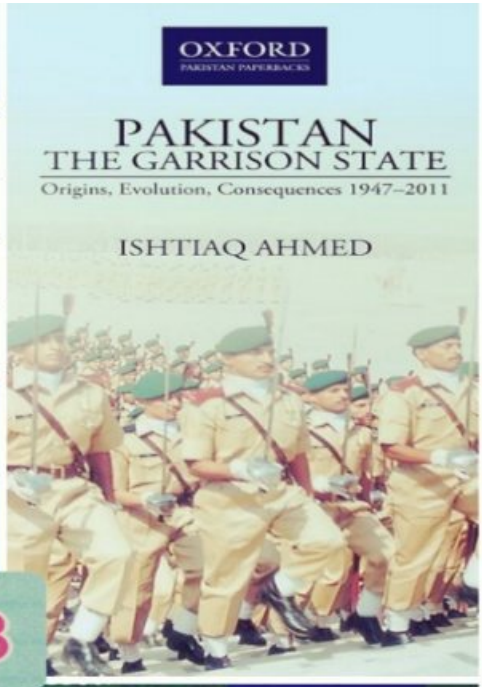

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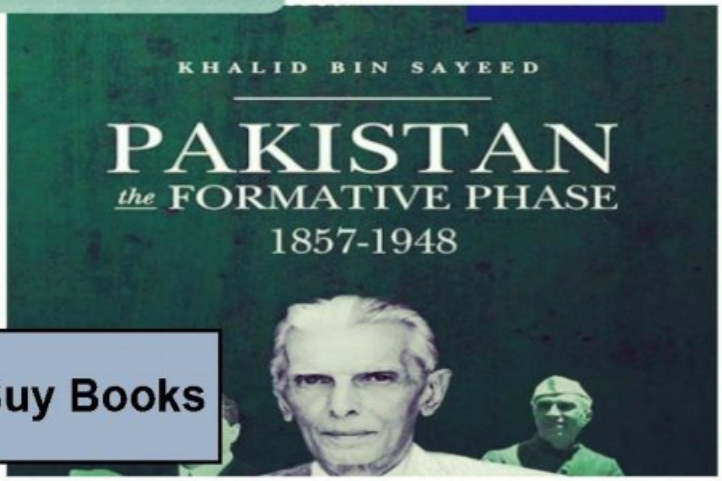

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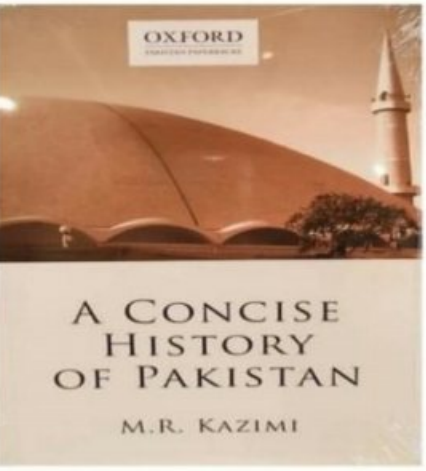

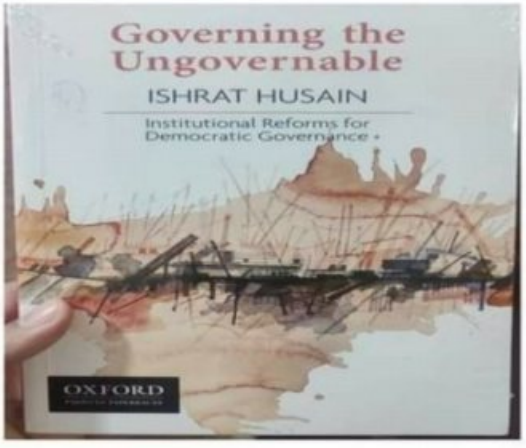

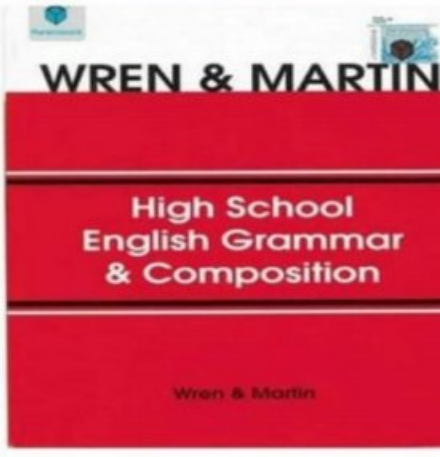

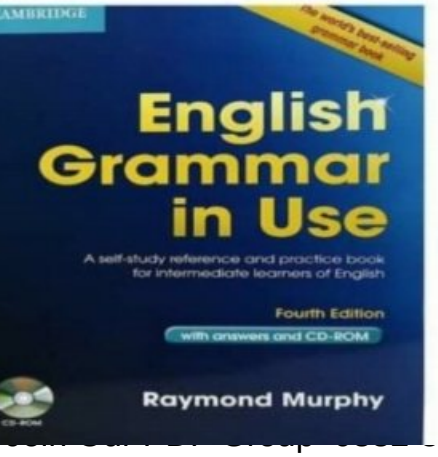

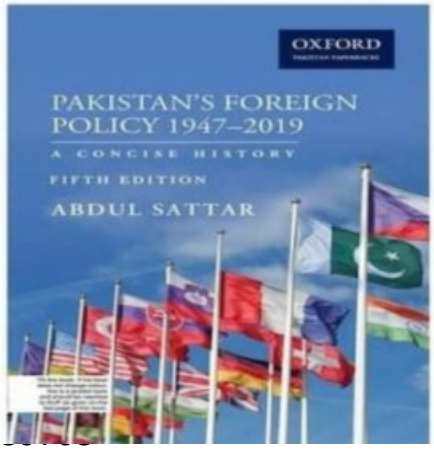

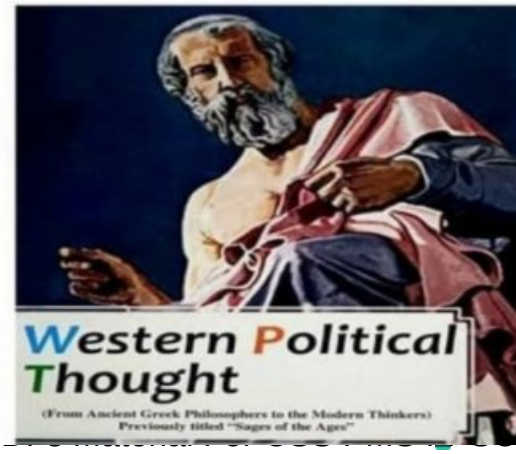

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2. On average, 12.6% of the world's population, or about one in each 8 people, lives in extreme poverty. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have the highest and second-highest number and proportion of the world's extreme poor, respectively, with 50.7% and 33.4% living in these two regions.

3. Trade among South Asian countries currently totals just $23 billion -- far below an estimated value of at least $67 billion

4. According to the latest World Air Quality Report, 2020, of the top 40 most polluted cities in the world, 37 are in South Asia. Air pollution in the region is a health hazard and represents the third-highest risk for premature death, as compared to the ninth highest cause in Western Europe.

5. South Asian countries are among the most vulnerable globally to the impacts of climate change. Extreme climate-related events - heat waves, storms, floods, fires and droughts - affect more than half of the region's population every year and continue to burden South Asian countries' economies.

6. According to the World Bank, 800 million people living in South Asia are especially vulnerable to the disastrous effects of climate change as their delicate ecosystems are ravaged by pollutants and changing weather patterns. By 2030, economic losses from climate change in the region will average $160 billion per year. Even worse, by 2050, over 40 million people from South Asia could become climate migrants, roaming the earth in search of whichever country would take them.

7. The bank's Global Economic Prospects report 2022 projects that growth in the South Asian region (SAR) will accelerate to 7.6 percent in 2022, as pandemic-related disruptions fade, before slowing to 6.0 percent in 2023.

REPORTS

A

1. India will spend 1.7pc of its GDP on transport infrastructure, around twice the level of the US and most European countries, says The Economist

2. Asia still needs 55 years to eliminate child marriage: UN

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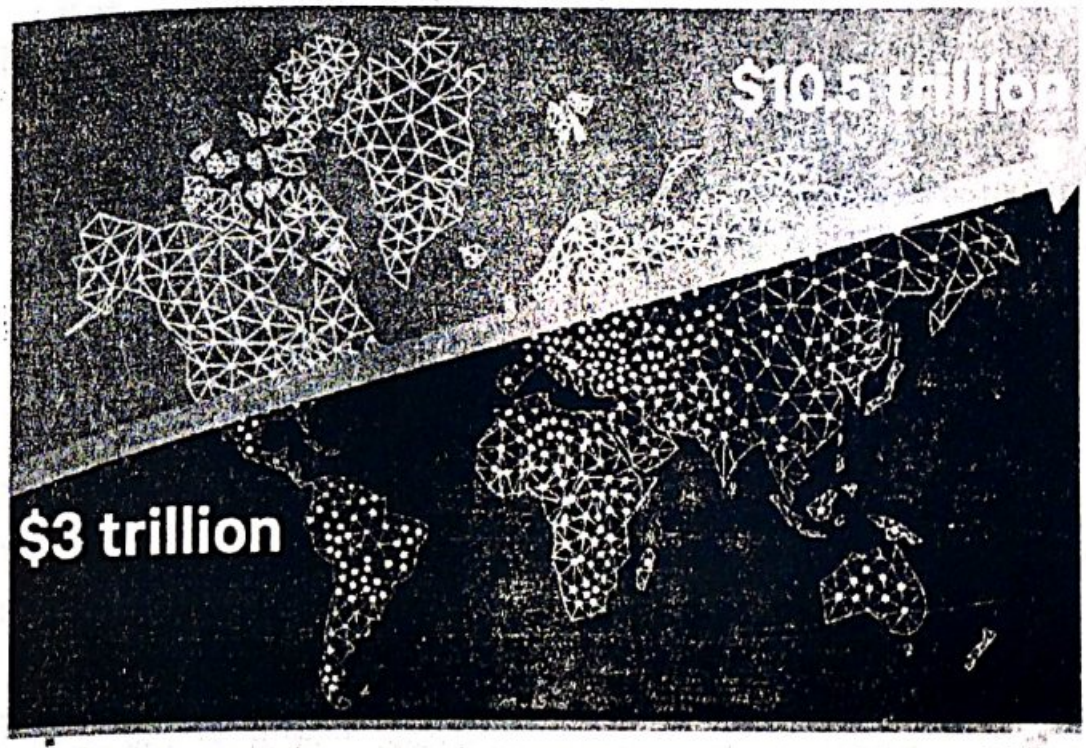
CYBERSECURITY FACTS AND STATISTICS

Growth of Cybercrime Costs



2015 2025

Cybercrime will cost companies worldwide an estimated $10.5 trillion annually by 2025, up from $3 trillion in 2015. At a growth rate of 15 percent year over year — Cybersecurity Ventures also reports that cybercrime represents the greatest transfer of economic wealth in history.

1. **Increase in Global Cybercrime**

Fact: Global cybercrime is projected to cost $10.5 trillion annually by 2025, up from $3 trillion in 2015.

Figure: This represents a 15% year-over-year increase over a decade.

Source: Cybersecurity Ventures.

2. **Ransomware Attacks**

Fact: Ransomware attacks are expected to increase by 25% in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Figure: Over 800 million ransomware attacks are anticipated worldwide.

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Source: Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

3. Data Breaches

Fact: In 2024, the average cost of a data breach is estimated to reach $4.45 million.

Figure: This is a 10% increase from the average cost in 2023.

Source: IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report.

4. Phishing Incidents

Fact: Phishing remains the most common type of cyber attack, accounting for over 40% of incidents.

Figure: Over 3.4 billion phishing emails are sent daily.

Source: Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG).

5. Financial Sector Target

Fact: The financial sector is the most targeted by cybercriminals, facing 30% of all cyber attacks.

Figure: This sector is projected to lose $1.75 trillion to cybercrime in 2024.

Source: Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center (FS-ISAC).

6. Cybersecurity Skills Gap

Fact: There is a global shortage of 3.5 million cybersecurity professionals in 2024.

Figure: This skills gap has increased by 50% over the past five years.

Source: (ISC)² Cybersecurity Workforce Study.

7. IoT Vulnerabilities

Fact: By 2024, there will be over 30 billion Internet of Things (IoT) devices, with 75% being vulnerable to cyber attacks.

Figure: This equates to 22.5 billion vulnerable devices.

Source: Gartner.

8. Cyber Insurance Market

Fact: The cyber insurance market is projected to reach $20 billion in premiums by 2025.

Figure: This is a 100% increase from $10 billion in 2020.

Source: Munich Re.

9. State-sponsored Attacks

Fact: State-sponsored cyber attacks are expected to increase by 20% in 2024.

Figure: These attacks account for 15% of all cyber incidents.

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Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

10. Mobile Device Security

Fact: In 2024, 60% of digital fraud incidents originate from mobile devices.

Figure: This represents an increase from 45% in 2022.

Source: RSA Security.

11. Cloud Security Breaches

Fact: Cloud security breaches are projected to increase by 30% in 2024.

Figure: Approximately 80% of organizations are expected to experience at least one cloud-related security breach.

Source: Cloud Security Alliance.

12. AI in Cybercrime

Fact: Cybercriminals increasingly use AI to automate and scale attacks, leading to a 40% increase in AI-driven cyber incidents.

Figure: AI-powered attacks will account for 35% of all cyber attacks by 2024.

Source: MIT Technology Review.

13. Cryptocurrency Theft

Fact: Theft of cryptocurrency is expected to exceed $4 billion in 2024.

Figure: This represents a 25% increase from the previous year.

Source: Chainalysis.

14. Cybercrime Reporting

Fact: Only 30% of cybercrime incidents are reported to authorities, highlighting significant underreporting.

Figure: Over 70% of businesses prefer to handle incidents internally.

Source: Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report.

15. Healthcare Sector Vulnerabilities

Fact: The healthcare sector is expected to face a 45% increase in cyber attacks in 2024.

Figure: This sector accounts for 20% of all data breaches.

Source: Health Information Trust Alliance (HITRUST).

16. Cybersecurity Spending

Fact: Global spending on cybersecurity is projected to reach $260 billion in 2024.

Figure: This is a 12% increase from $231 billion in 2023.

Source: Gartner.

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17. Insider Threats

Fact: Insider threats account for 34% of all cyber incidents.

Figure: These incidents cost organizations an average of $11.45 million annually.

Source: Ponemon Institute.

18. Cybercrime Prosecution

Fact: The prosecution rate for cybercrime is below 5%, due to the complexity and international nature of these crimes.

Figure: Less than 10% of cybercriminals are apprehended.

Source: Europol.

19. Cyber Attack Frequency

Fact: A cyber attack occurs every 39 seconds on average.

Figure: This amounts to over 2,200 attacks per day.

Source: University of Maryland.

20. Small Business Vulnerability

Fact: 43% of cyber attacks target small businesses.

Figure: 60% of small businesses go out of business within six months of a cyber attack.

Source: National Cyber Security Alliance.

21. Phishing Awareness Training

Fact: Organizations that conduct regular phishing awareness training reduce successful phishing attacks by 70%.

Figure: 85% of businesses now implement regular training programmes.

Source: KnowBe4.

22. DDoS Attacks

Fact: Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks are expected to increase by 20% in 2024.

Figure: The average cost of a DDoS attack is $2 million.

Source: Netscout.

23. Biometric Security

Fact: By 2024, 70% of organizations will use biometric authentication for security purposes.

Figure: This is an increase from 55% in 2022.

Source: ABI Research.

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24. Cybersecurity Job Growth

Fact: The cybersecurity job market is projected to grow by 33% by 2028.

Figure: This equates to approximately 1.8 million new cybersecurity jobs.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

25. Financial Losses

Fact: Financial losses due to cybercrime are projected to exceed $1 trillion annually by 2024.

Figure: This includes costs related to data breaches, ransomware, and other cyber incidents.

Source: McAfee.

26. Social Engineering

Fact: Social engineering attacks account for 70% of all successful cyber attacks.

Figure: These attacks often involve tactics like phishing and pretexting.

Source: Security Magazine.

27. Encryption Use

Fact: 95% of organizations use encryption to protect sensitive data.

Figure: This represents a significant increase from 75% in 2015.

Source: Thales Data Threat Report.

28. IoT Botnets

Fact: IoT devices are increasingly being used to create botnets for cyber attacks.

Figure: Over 50% of IoT devices are vulnerable to hacking.

Source: Symantec.

29. Cybersecurity Startups

Fact: Investment in cybersecurity startups reached $16.5 billion in 2023.

Figure: This is a 20% increase from the previous year.

Source: PitchBook.

30. Employee Negligence

Fact: Employee negligence is the leading cause of data breaches, responsible for 47% of incidents.

Figure: Training and awareness programs can reduce this risk by 45%.

Source: Ponemon Institute.

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Cyber Crime In Pakistan

1. Rise in Cybercrime Incidents

Fact: Cybercrime incidents in Pakistan are expected to rise by 30% in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Figure: Approximately 80,000 cases of cybercrime are anticipated.

Source: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Cyber Crime Wing.

2. Financial Sector Target

Fact: The financial sector in Pakistan is a primary target, with cyber attacks increasing by 25%.

Figure: Financial losses from cybercrime are estimated to reach $250 million.

Source: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

3. Phishing Attacks

Fact: Phishing attacks remain the most common cyber threat, accounting for 45% of cybercrime incidents.

Figure: Over 20,000 phishing attempts are reported monthly.

Source: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

4. Data Breaches

Fact: Data breaches in Pakistan have increased by 20% in 2024.

Figure: The average cost of a data breach in Pakistan is $2.5 million.

Source: Cyber Security Pakistan (CSP).

5. Ransomware Incidents

Fact: Ransomware attacks in Pakistan are projected to grow by 35% in 2024.

Figure: Over 5,000 ransomware attacks are expected.

Source: National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C).

6. Mobile Device Security

Fact: Cyber attacks on mobile devices account for 50% of all cybercrime incidents in Pakistan.

Figure: This represents a 15% increase from 2023.

Source: Pakistan Computer Emergency Response Team (PakCERT).

7. Cybersecurity Awareness

Fact: Only 25% of Pakistani businesses conduct regular cybersecurity awareness training.

Figure: This is a significant factor contributing to the high rate of cybercrime.

Source: Pakistan Information Security Association (PISA).

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8. **E-commerce Fraud**

Fact: E-commerce platforms in Pakistan have seen a 40% increase in cybercrime incidents.

Figure: Financial losses from e-commerce fraud are estimated at $50 million.

Source: Pakistan E-commerce Association (PECA).

9. **Cybercrime Reporting**

Fact: Only 35% of cybercrime incidents are reported to authorities in Pakistan.

Figure: This highlights significant underreporting and a lack of trust in law enforcement.

Source: FIA Cyber Crime Wing.

10. **Government Sector Vulnerabilities**

Fact: Cyber attacks on government institutions have increased by 25% in 2024.

Figure: This sector accounts for 20% of all cybercrime incidents.

Source: Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT).

11. **Digital Banking Frauds**

Fact: Digital banking frauds in Pakistan have surged by 30% in 2024.

Figure: Over 10,000 cases of digital banking fraud are expected.

Source: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

12. **Social Media Scams**

Fact: Cybercrime incidents involving social media scams have increased by 40%.

Figure: Approximately 15,000 social media scam cases are reported annually.

Source: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).

13. **Cybersecurity Skills Gap**

Fact: Pakistan faces a significant cybersecurity skills gap, with a shortage of 50,000 skilled professionals.

Figure: This gap has increased by 20% over the past three years.

Source: Higher Education Commission (HEC).

14. **IoT Device Vulnerabilities**

Fact: IoT devices in Pakistan are increasingly vulnerable, with 60% lacking proper security measures.

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Figure: This equates to millions of insecure IoT devices.

Source: Pakistan Computer Emergency Response Team (PakCERT).

15. Cryptocurrency-Related Crimes

Fact: Cryptocurrency-related cybercrimes in Pakistan have risen by 45%.

Figure: Financial losses from these crimes are estimated at $30 million.

Source: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

16. Cyber Espionage

Fact: Cyber espionage incidents targeting Pakistan have increased by 25% in 2024.

Figure: These incidents primarily target government and military sectors.

Source: National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C).

17. Online Harassment

Fact: Cases of online harassment have surged by 50% in 2024.

Figure: Over 25,000 cases of online harassment are reported annually.

Source: Digital Rights Foundation (DRF).

18. Cloud Security Breaches

Fact: Cloud security breaches in Pakistan have increased by 30%.

Figure: Approximately 70% of businesses have experienced at least one cloud-related security breach.

Source: Pakistan Information Security Association (PISA).

19. DDoS Attacks

Fact: Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks have increased by 20% in Pakistan.

Figure: The average cost of a DDoS attack is $1 million.

Source: Netsol Technologies.

20. Insider Threats

Fact: Insider threats account for 25% of all cybercrime incidents in Pakistan.

Figure: These incidents cost organizations an average of $1.5 million annually.

Source: Cyber Security Pakistan (CSP).

21. Cybersecurity Legislation

Fact: Pakistan has introduced new cybersecurity legislation to address rising cyber threats.

Figure: The legislation aims to reduce cybercrime incidents by 20%.

Source: Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication

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(MoITT).

22. Biometric Security

Fact: Biometric authentication is used by 55% of Pakistani organizations for security purposes.

Figure: This represents a 10% increase from 2023.

Source: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

23. Cybersecurity Investment

Fact: Investment in cybersecurity in Pakistan is projected to reach $500 million in 2024.

Figure: This is a 15% increase from the previous year.

Source: Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB).

24. Cybercrime Units

Fact: The number of dedicated cybercrime units in Pakistan has doubled in the past three years.

Figure: There are now over 50 specialized units.

Source: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

25. Digital Identity Theft

Fact: Cases of digital identity theft have increased by 35% in Pakistan.

Figure: Over 12,000 cases are reported annually.

Source: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA).

26. Cyber Forensics

Fact: The use of cyber forensics in investigations has increased by 40% in Pakistan.

Figure: Over 70% of cybercrime cases now involve forensic analysis.

Source: National Response Centre for Cyber Crimes (NR3C).

27. Cybersecurity Education

Fact: Cybersecurity courses and programs have increased by 30% in Pakistani universities.

Figure: Over 5,000 students are enrolled in cybersecurity programs.

Source: Higher Education Commission (HEC).

28. Dark Web Activities

Fact: Dark web activities related to Pakistan have increased by 50%.

Figure: This includes illegal sales of data and cybercrime tools.

Source: Cyber Security Pakistan (CSP).

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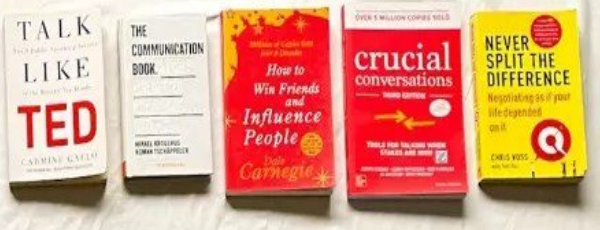
50 Books To Master 10 Skills

Productivity

Personal Finance

Business

Communication

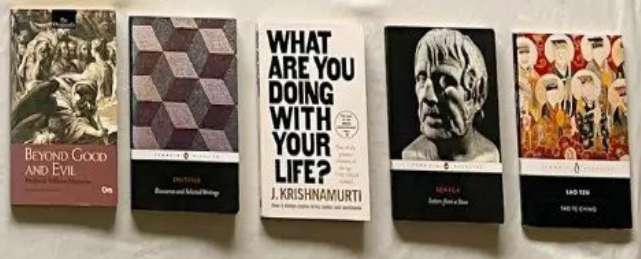


Human Behavior

Discipline

Relationship

Philosophy



Critical Thinking

Self Help

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29. Women in Cybersecurity

Fact: Women make up 20% of the cybersecurity workforce in Pakistan.

Figure: This represents a 5% increase from the previous year.

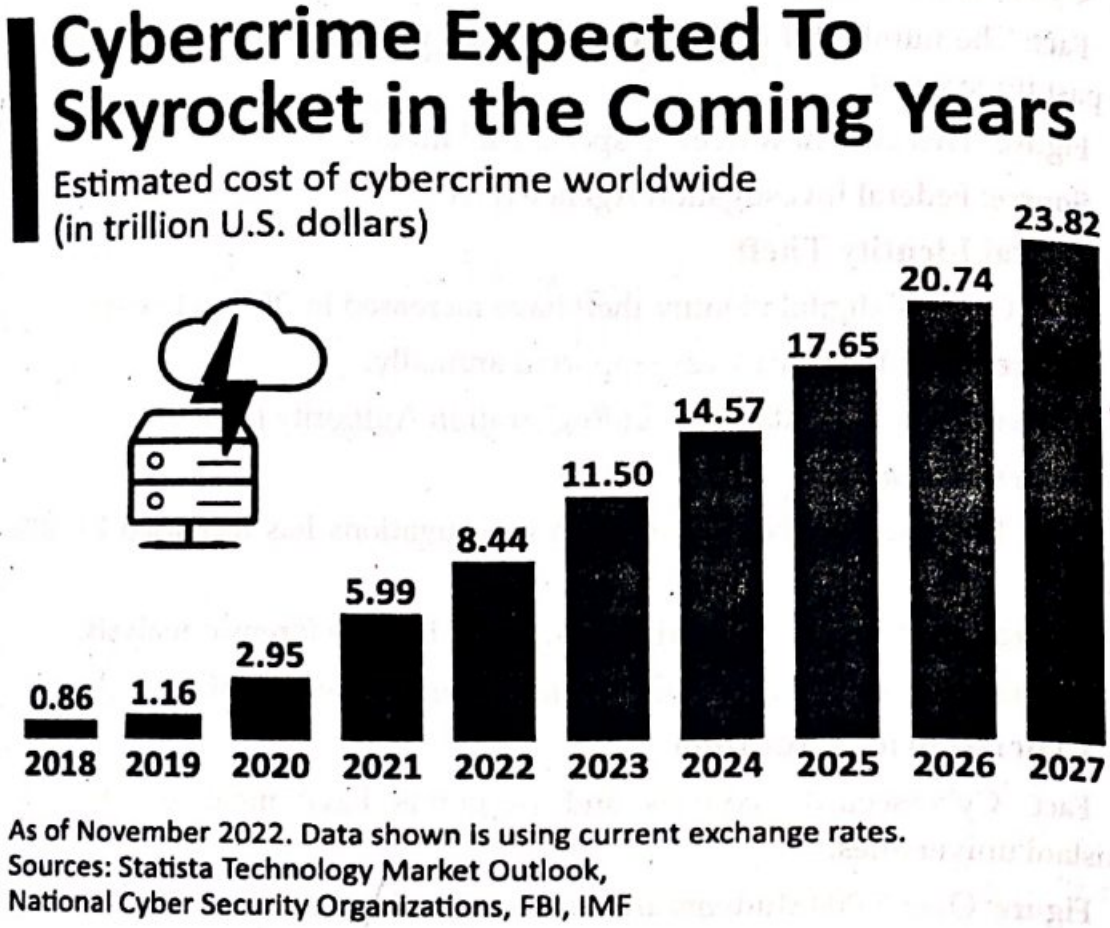
Source: Women in Cybersecurity Pakistan (WiCSP).

30. Cybersecurity Collaborations

Fact: Pakistan has signed several international cybersecurity collaboration agreements in 2024.

Figure: These agreements aim to enhance cybersecurity measures and information sharing.

Source: Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT).



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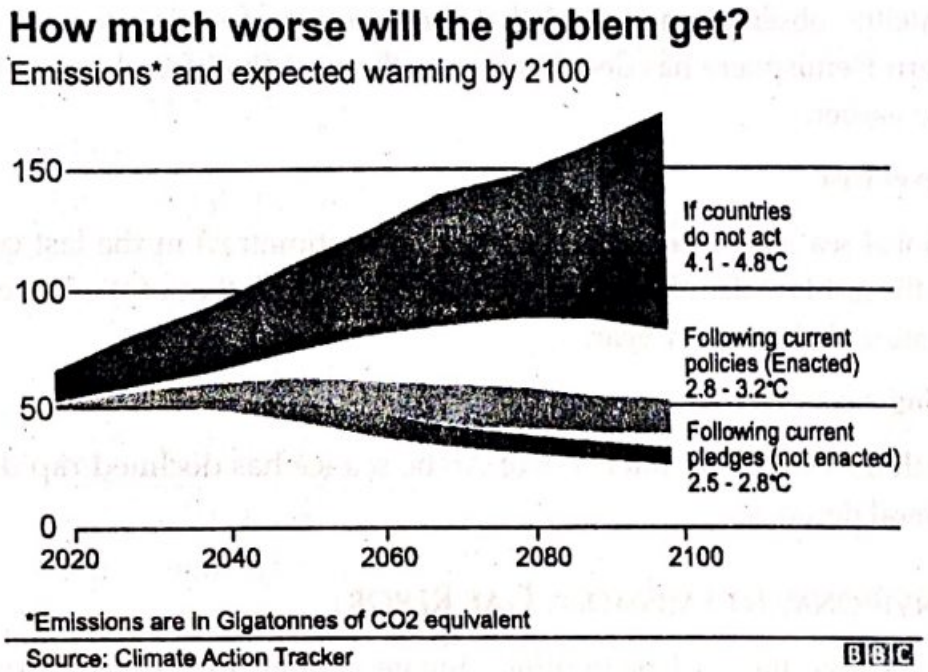
THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE



NASA FACTS

Global Temperature Rise

The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 2.12F (1.18°C) since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and other human activities. Most of the warming occurred in the past 40 years, with the seven most recent years being the warmest. The years 2016 and 2020 are tied for the warmest year on record.

Warming Oceans

The oceans has absorbed much of this increased heat, with the top 100 metres (about 328 feet) of ocean showing warming of more than 0.6F since 1969. The ocean has absorbed much of this increased heat, with the top 100 metres (about 328 feet) of ocean showing warming of more than 0.6F (0.33°C) since 1969. Earth stores 90 percent of the extra energy in the ocean.

Shrinking Ice Sheets

The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass. Data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment show Greenland lost an average of 279 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2019, while Antarctica lost about 148 billion tons of ice per year.

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Glacial Retreat

Glaciers are retreating almost everywhere around the world — including in the Alps, Himalayas, Andes, Rockies, Alaska, and Africa.

Decreased Snow Cover

Satellite observations reveal that the amount of spring snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere has decreased over the past five decades and the snow is melting earlier.

Sea Level Rise

Global sea level rose about 8 inches (20 centimetres) in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double that of the last century and accelerating slightly every year.

Declining Arctic Sea Ice

Both the extent and thickness of Arctic sea ice has declined rapidly over the last several decades.

UN Environment Emissions Gap Report

- To achieve the goal of limiting climate change to 2°C, countries need to triple the level of their commitments made under the Paris Agreement.
- To achieve the goal of limiting climate change to 1.5°C, countries would have to increase their level of ambition by 5x.
- Global emissions have reached historic levels at 53.5 GtCO2e, after a three-year period of stabilization, with no signs of peaking.
- Only 57 countries (representing 60 percent of global emissions) are on track to meet their commitments by 2030.

World Meteorological Organization Greenhouse Gas Bulletin

- Globally, averaged concentrations of CO_2 reached 405.5 parts per million (ppm) in 2017, up from 403.3 ppm in 2016 and 400.1 ppm in 2015.
- Concentrations of methane and nitrous oxide also rose, whilst there was a resurgence of a potent greenhouse gas and ozone depleting substance called CFC-11, which is regulated under an international agreement to protect the ozone layer.
- Since 1990, there has been a 41 percent increase in total radiative forcing - the warming effect on the climate - by longlived greenhouse gases. CO_2 accounts for about 82 percent of the increase in radiative forcing over

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the past decade, according to figures from the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

- The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO_2 was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3°C warmer and sea level was 10-20 metres higher.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIAL REPORT ON GLOBAL WARMING OF 1.5°C

The report highlights a number of climate change impacts that could be avoided by limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to 2°C, or more.

- By 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C.
- The likelihood of an Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5°C, compared with at least once per decade with 2°C.
- Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all (> 99 percent) would be lost with 2°C.
- We have the tools we need to address climate change: the world doesn't have to come up with some magic machines to curb climate change – the technology is available to take necessary climate action.
- Rapid changes must take place in four key parts of society: energy generation, land use, cities, and industry.

WORLD CONTRIBUTION IN GHGS EMISSIONS

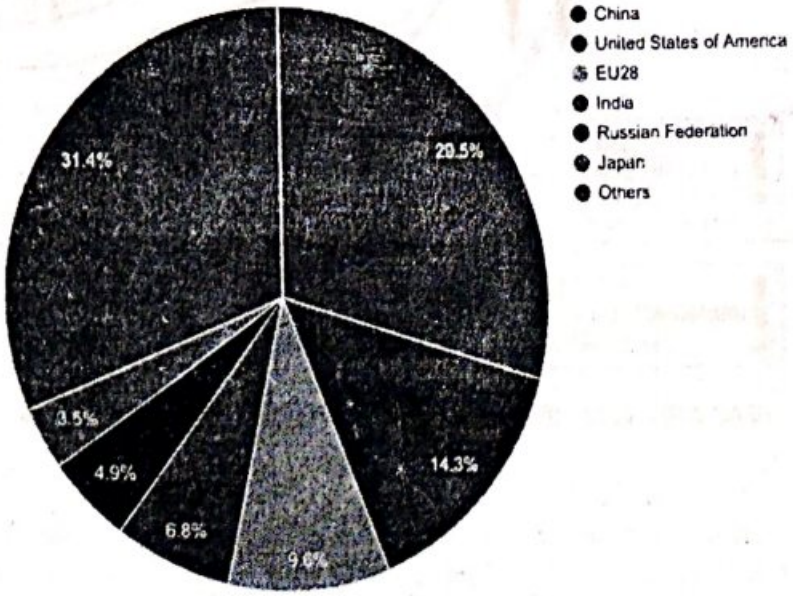

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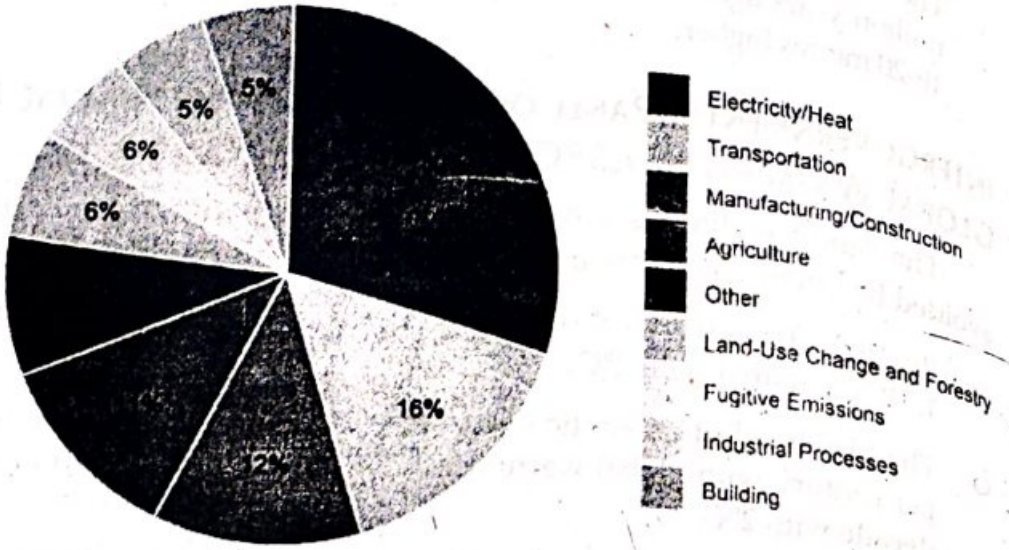
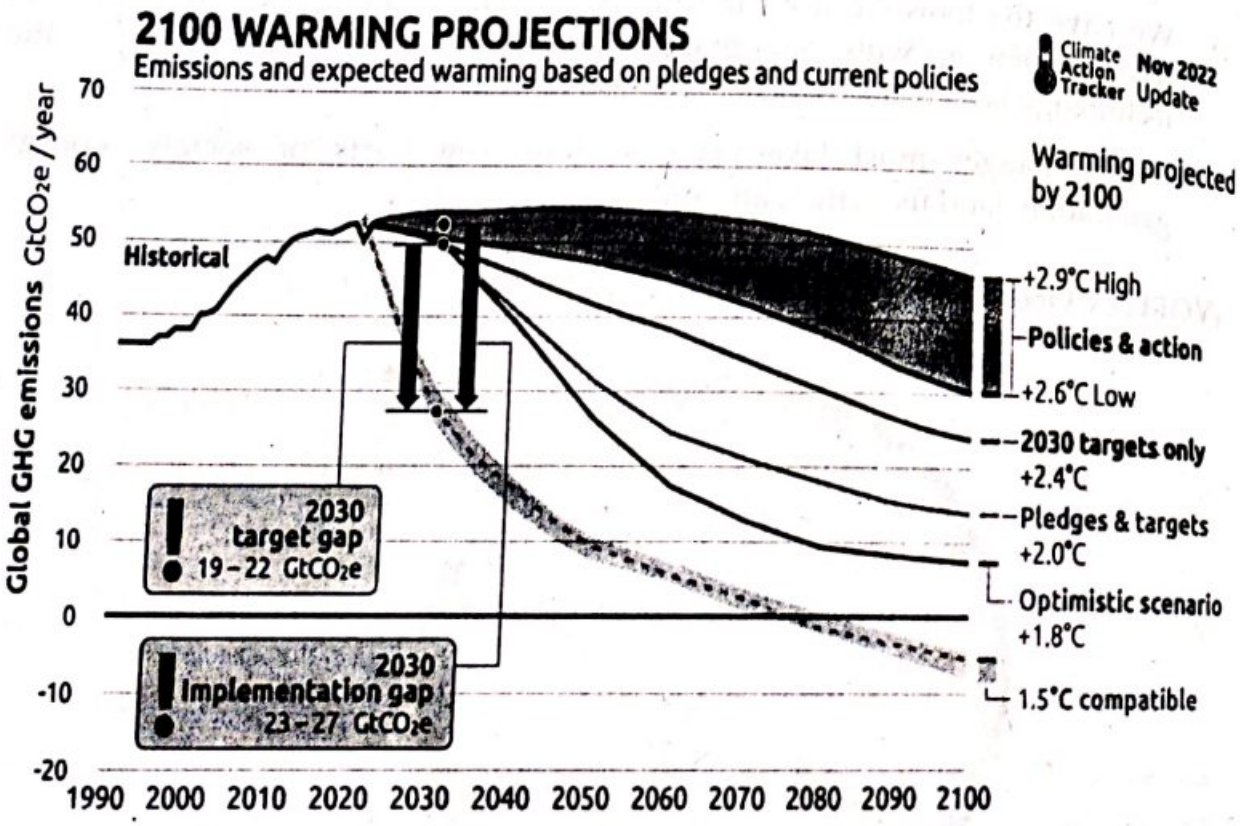
Exhibit 16:

Greenhouse gas emissions by sector

In billions of tonnes of CO_2 -equivalent



Source: CAIT Climate Data Explorer



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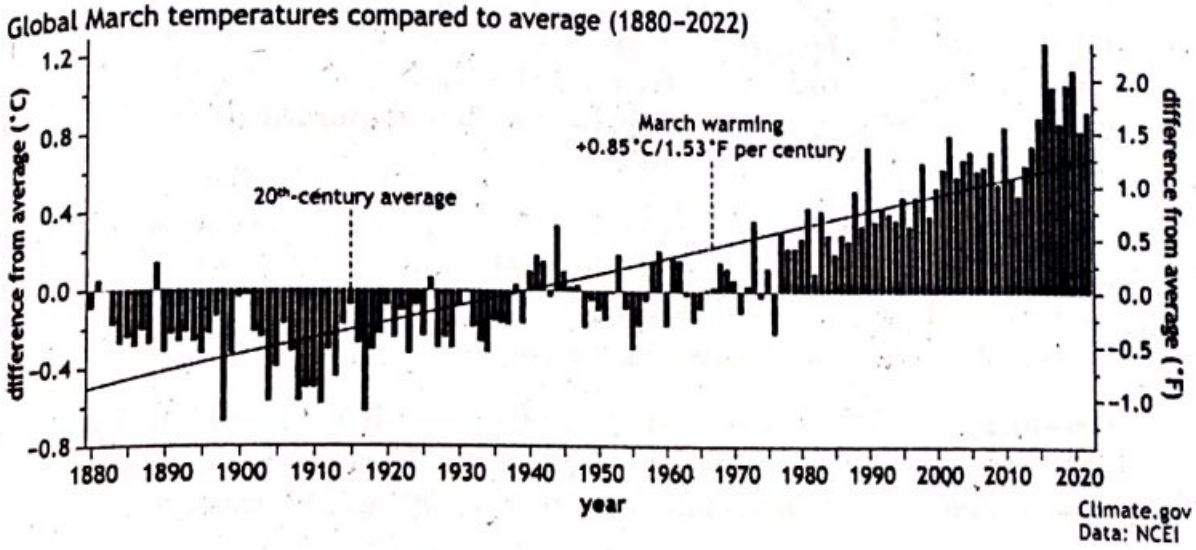

COP-28 AND KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Signalling the beginning of the end for the fossil fuel era
- New funding for loss and damage
- Enhancing global efforts to strengthen resilience
- Linking climate action with conservation of nature
- Ramping up practical climate solutions
- Looking ahead

REPORTS

A

1. 2024 saw significant anomalies in global precipitation patterns, with notable increases in extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall and floods in various regions. (NOAA NCEI).
2. According to NOAA's climate models, there is a 55% chance that 2024 will be the warmest year on record and a 99% chance it will rank in the top five (NOAA NCEI)
3. **Arctic Sea Ice Decline:** The summer of 2024 saw the second-lowest Arctic sea ice extent on record, indicating a continued downward trend. Published by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) in June 2024. (National Academies)
4. **Carbon Dioxide Levels:** Atmospheric CO_2 levels reached a new high of 422 ppm in May 2024, reported by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. (Weather.gov)

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5. **Global Glacier Melt:** The World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) reported that 2024 had one of the highest rates of glacier mass loss globally, emphasizing the rapid retreat of glaciers. Report published in April 2024. (Congress.gov)

6. **Ocean Heat Content:** The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) released a report in March 2024 indicating that the ocean heat content in the upper 700 metres reached record levels in 2024, contributing to more intense marine heatwaves (Weather.gov)

7. **Greenland Ice Sheet Loss:** A study by the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) published in July 2024 found that the Greenland Ice Sheet lost an unprecedented 500 billion metric tons of ice in 2024. (Congress.gov)

8. **Wildfire Increase:** According to a report by the European Space Agency (ESA) published in May 2024, there was a significant increase in the number and intensity of wildfires in Europe, attributed to higher temperatures and prolonged drought conditions (National Academies)

9. **Sea Level Rise:** A joint report by NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) in April 2024 showed that global sea levels rose by an average of 4.5 mm in 2024 alone, a record annual increase. (Weather.gov)

10. **Extreme Weather Events:** The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported in February 2024 that the frequency of extreme weather events such as hurricanes and typhoons increased by 20% compared to previous years. (Congress.gov)

11. **Global Temperature Increase:** A study by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in March 2024 indicated that the global average temperature is now 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels, making 2024 one of the hottest years on record. (Weather.gov)

12. **Biodiversity Loss:** A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in January 2024 highlighted that rising temperatures are accelerating biodiversity loss, with many species facing heightened extinction risks. (National Academies)

13. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Report (June 2024) — Indicates an 80% likelihood that global temperatures will exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels temporarily within the next five years (UN News).

14. IPCC Report on GHG Emissions (March 2024) — Highlights the need for a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to meet climate goals. (IPCC).

15. World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report (2024) — Lists climate-related threats among the top global risks. (World Economic Forum)

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16. ScienceDaily Reports (June 2024) – Discusses various climate change impacts such as increased nitrous-oxide emissions and threats to migratory birds. (ScienceDaily).

17. UN Development Programme (UNDP) Global Survey (June 2024) – Reveals a global consensus for stronger climate action with 80% of respondents supporting ambitious measures. (UN News)

18. UN Environment Programme's Global Resources Outlook (March 2024) – Analyzes trends in resource use and their impact on climate change and sustainability. (UNEP - UN Environment Programme)

19. UN Report on Rising Global Temperatures (June 2024) – Warns of the likelihood of new temperature records in the near future. (UN News)

20. IPCC Adaptation and Resilience Report (March 2024) – Addresses the uneven progress in climate adaptation efforts globally. (IPCC)

21. World Economic Forum Report on Climate and Conflict (2024) – Discusses the dual crises of climate change and geopolitical conflicts. (World Economic Forum).

22. UNEP Report on Biodiversity Loss and Pollution (March 2024) – Highlights the interconnected crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution (UNEP – UN Environment Programme)

23. ScienceDaily Report on Human-Caused Warming (June 2024) – States that the rate of global warming caused by humans is at an all-time high (ScienceDaily)

24. UNDP Survey on Climate Anxiety (June 2024) – Finds that a majority of people globally are increasingly worried about climate change. (UN News)

25. ScienceDaily Report on Ozone Pollution (June 2024) – Explains how climate change exacerbates ozone pollution (ScienceDaily)

26. UN Report on Climate Change Impacts (June 2024) – Discusses how climate change affects extreme weather and temperature spikes globally (UN News)

27. IPCC Report on Climate Finance Gaps (March 2024) – Highlights the gaps in climate finance needed for mitigation and adaptation (IPCC)

28. UNEP Report on Resource Efficiency (March 2024) – Emphasizes the need for efficient use of natural resources to combat climate change (UNEP - UN Environment Programme)

29. ScienceDaily Report on Arctic Melting (June 2024) – Discusses the influence of meteorological phenomena on Arctic ice melt (ScienceDaily)

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30. UNDP Survey on Fossil Fuels Transition (June 2024) — Shows global support for transitioning away from fossil fuels to clean energy. (UN News).

31. ScienceDaily Report on CO2 Removal (June 2024) — Questions the effectiveness of nature-based CO2 removal methods using the ocean (ScienceDaily)

32. UNEP Report on the Triple Planetary Crisis (March 2024) — Addresses the combined challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution (UNEP - UN Environment Programme)

33. An estimated 387 natural hazards and disasters resulted in the death of 30,704 people and caused economic losses of around $223.8 billion all over the world in 2022.

34. Devastating climate impacts are hitting faster than expected as the world teeters on reaching the 1.5 degree Celsius warming limit in a little over a decade, the UN report.

35. Plastic entering oceans could triple by 2040 if left unchecked: study

36. Next five years to be warmest period ever, warns UN

37. The world's richest 1pc earners emit about 1,000 times the carbon of the poorest 1pc, according to the International Energy Agency

38. Greenland at its warmest in 1,000 years: study

39. US, China's regions most vulnerable to climate damage: report

40. The World Meteorological Organization calculates that, on average, a weather, climate, or water-related disaster has occurred somewhere in the world every day for the last 50 years, causing 115 deaths and over $202 million losses on a daily basis.

41. Climate change putting 4 percent of global GDP at risk, new study estimates

42. Livestock produces large share of greenhouse gases emissions: WB

B

43. Two-thirds of glaciers projected to disappear by 2100: Study

44. Total economic losses caused by natural disasters hit an estimated $72 billion in the first half of 2022, fuelled by storms and floods, Swiss reinsurance giant Swiss Re-estimated.

45. The world loses 10 million hectares of forest a year, according to the World Economic Forum.

46. Pollution killing 9 million people a year, Africa hardest hit: study

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47. About 40pc plant species worldwide are at risk of extinction, mainly due to the destruction of wild habitat, states the World Economic Forum.
48. By 2030, about 2pc of working hours could be lost worldwide every year because of the heat, says the Financial Times
49. The global textile industry is responsible for 20pc of global water pollution, according to the World Economic Forum.
50. Four key climate change indicators – greenhouse gas concentrations, sea level rise, ocean heat and ocean acidification – set new records in 2021, according to the 'State of the Global Climate' report.
51. Microscopic air pollution caused mostly by burning fossil fuels shortens lives worldwide by more than two years, researchers reported.
52. Asia-Pacific is world's most disaster-prone region, says UN

C

53. Thinning Greenland ice sheet may mean more rise in sea level: study
54. EU to ban carbon-emitting vehicles by 2035.
55. South Asia heat not caused by climate change alone: WMO chief
56. Wildlife populations have plunged 69 percent since 1970: WWF
57. Heat waves will become so extreme in certain regions of the world within decades that human life there will be unsustainable, the United Nations and the Red Cross reported.
58. Fossil fuel reserves contain 3.5 trillion tons of CO2, registry reveals
59. Estimates show that the economic cost of loss and damage globally due to climate change could be between $290 billion and $580 billion by 2030.
60. Asia-Pacific sees 225 million displacements in 11 years due to disasters: report
61. World food import bill may go up to $1.94 trillion this year: FAO
62. Richest countries contributing to destruction of environment: UN

D

63. The world's energy mix is dominated by fossil fuels, particularly oil (33%), coal (24%) and natural gas (27%), despite the increasing need to shift towards cleaner fuels for environmental safety and depleting world oil reserves.

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64. In the world today, some 811 million people suffer from hunger and 41 million live on the brink of famine whereas 47 countries will not even reach low hunger levels by 2030; as many as 28 of these countries are in Africa.

65. 99 percent of people on Earth breathing polluted air: WHO

66. US is seriously underestimating the consequences of CO2: study

67. According to the World Air Quality Report 2021, 63 Indian cities are among the 100 most polluted places globally.

68. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated that atmospheric concentrations of carbon are expected to reach approximately 550 ppm before 2050, even if further action is taken to reduce them. As a result of this, some 175 million people, or 1.9 percent of the global population, could find itself deficient in zinc, and 122 million people (1.3 percent) could become protein deficient. The reduction of 4 percent or more in dietary iron can increase the risk of anaemia, especially in women and children under-five years.

69. The last seven years have been the hottest on record globally "by a clear margin", the European Union's climate monitoring service reported.

70. Poor nations need $60 billion a year to protect nature: NGOs

71. The largest impact of climate change is that it could wipe off up to 18 percent of GDP off the worldwide economy by 2050 if global temperatures rise by 3.2°C, the Swiss Re Institute warns.

72. Sustainable debt – bonds and loans raised with environmental and social purposes in mind – rose 29 percent to $732.1 billion in 2020, the greatest issuance amount ever in a single year, says MIT Sloan School of Management.

E

73. According to the World Energy Outlook, 2021, the global temperature has risen by 1.1 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era, leading our planet to its warmest level in over 11,000 years. At this pace, the increase in global temperatures will cross 1.5°C mark by 2030 and rise to 2.6°C by 2100. It will be catastrophic.

74. Researchers have found that when crops are exposed to carbon dioxide at the level predicted for 2050, a plant can lose as much as 10 percent of its zinc, 5 percent iron and 8 percent protein content. Studies show that protein decreased in rice, wheat, barley and potatoes by 7.6 percent, 7.8 percent, 14.1 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively, when exposed to greater carbon

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dioxide concentrations. It is reported that 18 countries, including Pakistan, could lose over 5 percent of protein from rice and wheat by 2050.

75. Almost a quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change come from farming, especially livestock, reports BBC.

76. Even if humanity beats the odds and caps global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, seas will rise for centuries to come and swamp cities currently home to half-a-billion people, researchers warned.

77. The WHO estimates that ambient air pollution accounts for an estimated 4.2 million deaths per year worldwide.

78. About 57pc of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions are from animal- based compared to 29pc from plant-based food, says The Economist .

79. The 3.5 trillion tons of Greenland's ice sheet that has melted over the past decade has raised global sea levels by one centimeter and is heightening worldwide flood risks, new research showed.

80. Saudi Arabia pledges over $1bn in climate initiatives.

81. In a world that heats up another half-degree above that benchmark, an additional 200 million of today's urban dwellers would regularly find themselves knee-deep in sea water and more vulnerable to devastating storm surges, they reported in Environmental Research Letters.

F

82. Cities currently home to half-a-billion people will be swamped by rising sea levels, warn researchers.

83. Today's concentration of CO_2 — which lingers for hundreds of years — is 50 percent higher than in 1800, and Earth's average surface temperature has already risen 1.1°C.

84. Fashion was responsible for 2.1 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions in 2018, the same quantity as France, Germany and the UK combined, says McKinsey.

85. Humans have degraded or destroyed roughly two-thirds of the world's original tropical rainforest cover, new data reveals raising alarm that a key natural buffer against climate change is quickly vanishing.

86. PwC (Price water house Coopers) annual report says that current global economic growth is 22 percent more affected by pandemics and health crisis than climate change. Even cyber threats are believed to be 17 percent more threatening than climate change.

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87. If countries stick to the emissions targets for 2030 that they have announced going into COP26, then global warming would be limited to 2.6-2.7°C, according to the UN Emissions Gap report.

88. A global scientific study by Bath University revealed that many young people were deeply anxious about the effects of climate change on their future. The study surveyed 10,000 youth aged between 16 and 25, across 10 countries. About 60 percent of young people "felt very worried or extremely worried" as "chronic stress over climate change was also increasing the risk of mental and physical problems." The study found that "the young are confused by governments' failure to act."

89. The climate crisis threatens a double blow for the Middle East, experts say, by destroying its oil income as the world shifts to renewables and by raising temperatures to unlivable extremes.

90. From 2019 to 2020, annual investment in clean energy sources and technology specifically in renewables investment increased by two percent, from US$ 363.3 billion to 362.5 billion.

91. Planned fossil fuel output shatters 1.5°C climate target: UN

92. The United Nations regards the decade 2021-2030 as the 'Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)' which challenges everyone to massively scale up restoration efforts that breathe new life into our degraded ecosystems.

G

93. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, is the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference. It was held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 1 to 12 November 2021 under the presidency of the United Kingdom.

94. The World Bank has estimated that, for the world as a whole, the cost associated with health damage from ambient air pollution is around $5.7 trillion, equivalent to over 5 percent of global GDP.

95. UN faces $100 trillion shortfall in fight against climate change, inequality - report

96. According to the UN Environment Programme's Food Waste Index, over 900 million tons of food is thrown away every year, with close to 60pc of this wasted at home.

97. In a 2014 report, the Asian Development Bank underscored the impact of climate change in South Asia. It said a "warming trend of about 0.75°C has been observed in annual mean temperatures in South Asia over the past century."

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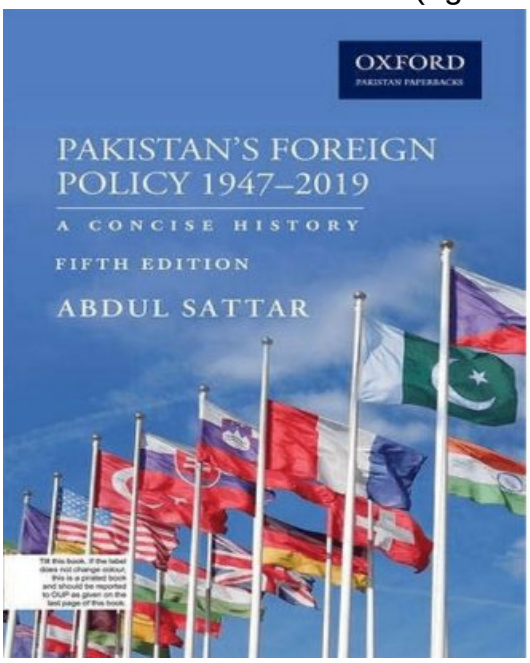

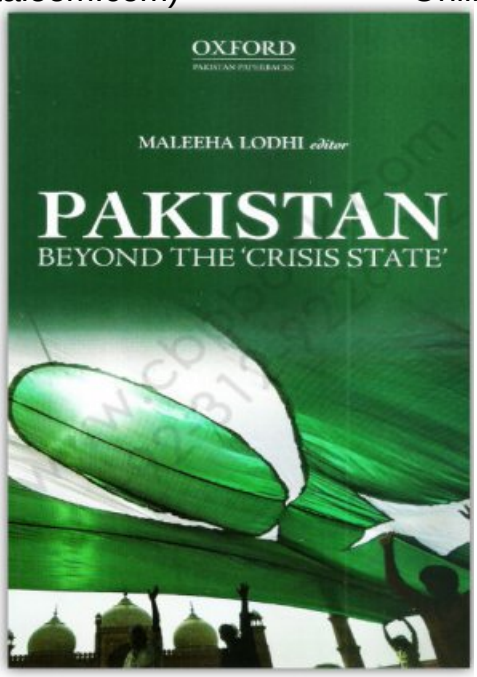

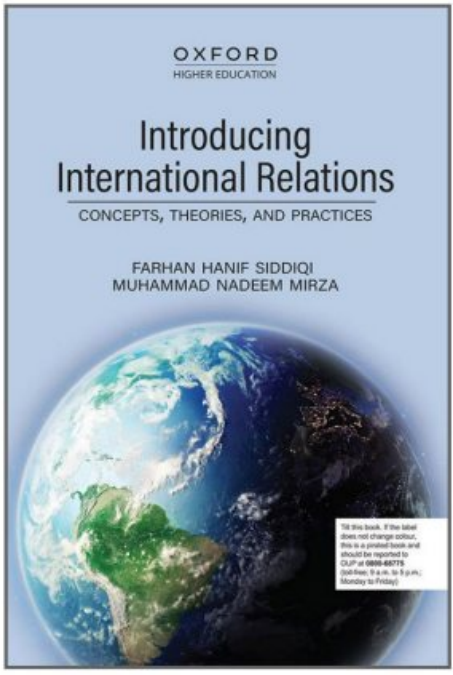

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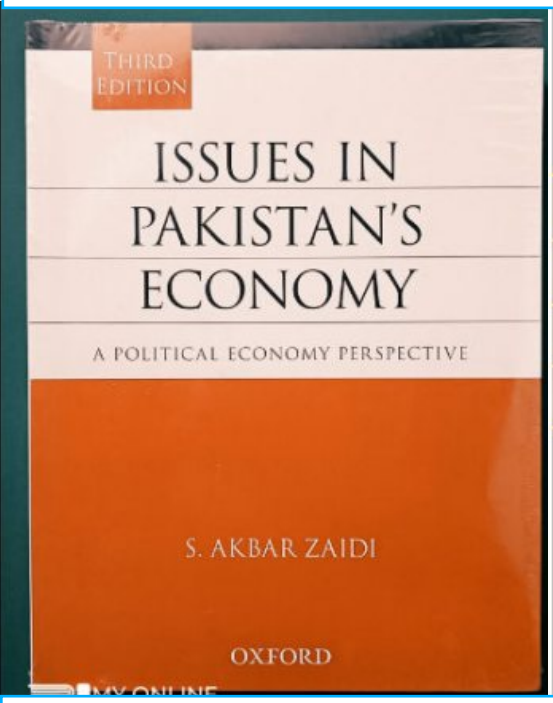

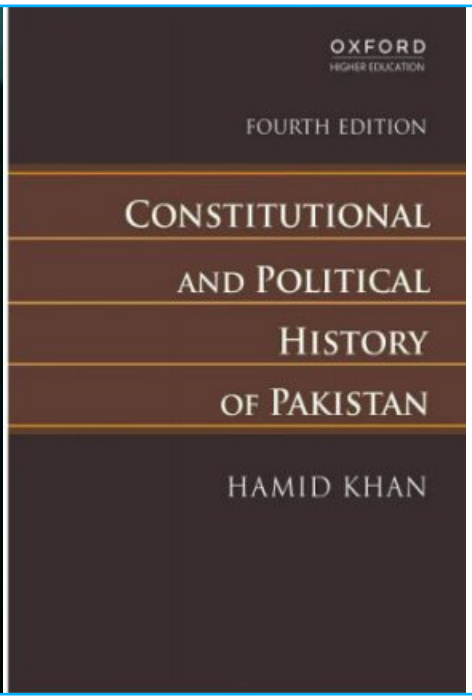

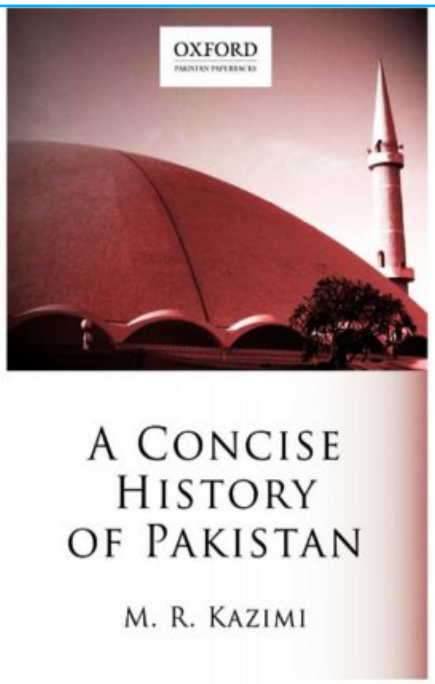

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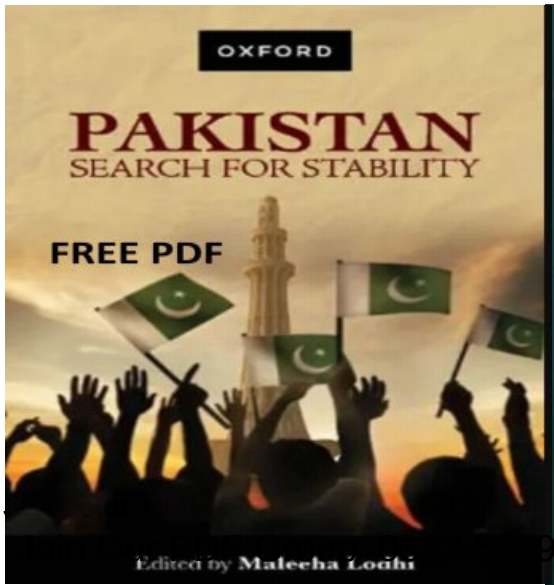

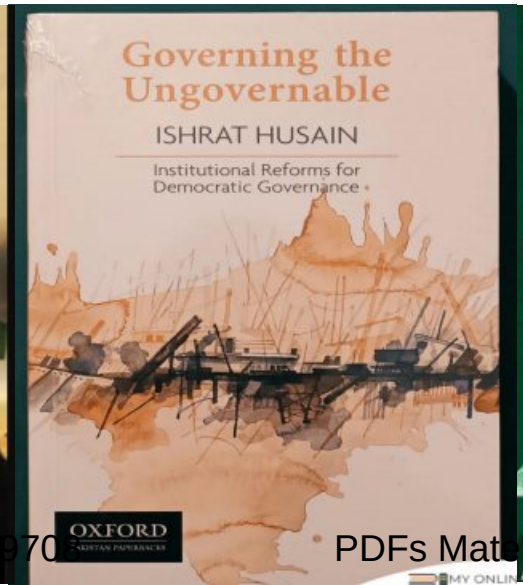

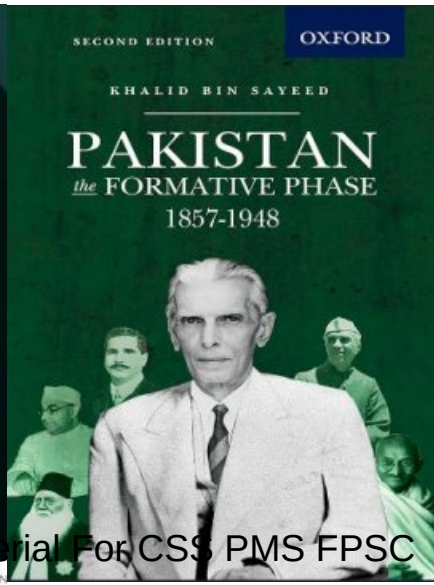

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98. Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere reached record levels in 2020, the United Nations said in a stark warning ahead of the COP26 summit about worsening global warming.

99. China and India are responsible for about 90 percent of the increase in carbon emissions over the past decade, states Bloomberg.

100. A group of 60 countries has signed up to a pledge led by the European Union and United States to cut emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said.

101. The Texas winter storm is expected to be the most expensive weather event in the state's history, costing insurers over $20 billion, reports Business Insider.

102. New Delhi was the world's most polluted capital for the third straight year in 2020, according to IQAir, a Swiss group that measures air quality levels based on the concentration of lung-damaging airborne particles known as PM2.5.

H

103. A new scientific blueprint for tackling climate change, pollution and the accelerating loss of plant and animal species published shows how to end the world's "suicidal" war on nature.

104. Serious pollution caused around 160,000 premature deaths in the world's five most populous cities in 2020, even as air quality improved in some places due to coronavirus lockdowns, an environmental group said.

105. An Air Visual's Air Quality Index (AQI) ranking between 300-500 or above is classified as 'hazardous' and indicates there is a health emergency.

106. Climate change will fundamentally reshape life on the planet in the coming decades, even if humans can tame planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions, according to a landmark draft report from the UN's climate science advisers.

107. According to a recent report by the UN's World Food Programme, 41 million people in 43 countries are "on the very edge of famine". The primary factors contributing to famine-like conditions are conflict, climate change, and economic instability.

108. Coal, oil and gas — fossil fuels which are the main cause of global warming, — accounted for 80.2 percent of final energy consumption in 2019, according to a report by the REN21 think-tank. That compared with 80.3 percent in 2009.

109. The United Nations climate chief said a "significant amount of work" remains to be done ahead of November's COP26 summit in Britain, with

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developing nations warning issues of finance and vaccine inequity could derail a successful outcome.

110. Heat wave in Pacific Northwest could soon repeat due to climate change – research.

111. Europe's climate master plan aims to slash emissions within a decade.

112. Extreme weather renews focus on climate change as scientists update forecasts.

I

113. If global temperature increases by 3°C, 41 percent of mammals would lose half their habitat, warns United Nations.

114. According to UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, even the most drastic cuts in greenhouse emissions are unlikely to prevent a rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial level temperatures.

115. Ocean surface climates may disappear by 2100: study

116. Nature Scientific Reports declares that if carbon emissions continued to be released into the atmosphere at the same rate, it would annihilate up to 95 percent of the earth's ocean surface by 2100.

117. Weather, climate disasters surged fivefold in 50 years, says UN

118. Pollution to reduce life expectancy of 480 million Indians by 9 years: study

119. According to new study, some animals are shape shifting and have developed bigger tails, beaks and ears to regulate their temperatures as planet warms.

120. World's largest plant capturing carbon from air starts in Iceland.

121. Animal farming accounts for twice as many greenhouse gas emissions as plants grown for consumption, according to a study.

122. 1.5°C warming limit 'impossible' without major action, says UN

J

123. In climate pledge, President Xi Jinping says China will not build new coal-fired power projects abroad.

124. China's pledge to stop building coal-fired power plants overseas could cull $50 billion of investment as it slashes future carbon emissions, analysts said.

125. UN faces $100 trillion shortfall in fight against climate change, inequality – report

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126. According to a recent report by the World Meteorological Organization, the past decade was the hottest on record.

127. According to report 2021 by the UN's World Food Programme, 41 million people in 43 countries are "on the very edge of famine". The primary factors contributing to famine-like conditions are conflict, climate change and economic instability.

128. G20 leaders meeting in Rome on October 31, 2021 committed to the key goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and pledged action on the use of coal, but fell short on a target of zero emissions, according to a final draft communique.

129. The 3.5 trillion tons of Greenland's ice sheet that has melted over the past decade has raised global sea levels by one centimeter and is heightening worldwide flood risks, new research reported.

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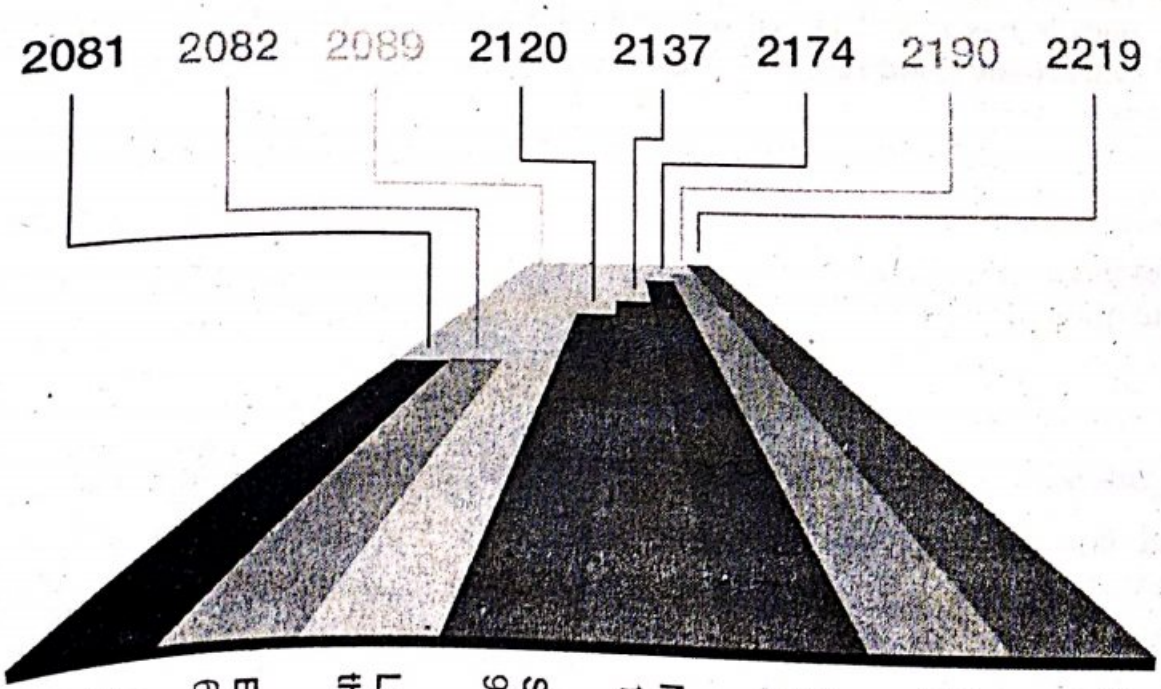
GENERAL FACTS AND STATISTICS ON FEMINISM

Global Gender Gap Index 2022

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

At current pace, when are regions likely to close the gap?



Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2022

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Global Gender Gap Index 2022

Global, Top 10

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

GLOBAL RANK	COUNTRY	REGIONAL RANK	GENDER GAP CLOSED %	GENDER GAP SCORE	SCORE CHANGE VS 2021
1	Iceland	(1)		0.908	0.016 ▲
2	Finland	(2)		0.860	0.001 ▼
3	Norway	(3)		0.845	0.004 ▼
4	New Zealand	(1)		0.841	0.001 ▲
5	Sweden	(4)		0.822	0.001 ▼
6	Rwanda	(1)		0.811	0.006 ▲
7	Nicaragua	(1)		0.810	0.014 ▲
8	Namibia	(2)		0.807	0.002 ▼
9	Ireland	(5)		0.804	0.004 ▲
10	Germany	(6)		0.801	0.005 ▲

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Europe East Asia and the Pacific Sub-Saharan Africa Latin America and the Caribbean

Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2022

A

Global Gender Gap Report 2023:

- Women hold 32.2% of senior leadership roles, down from 41.9% of overall workforce representation.
- Education parity has improved, with 80.1% of countries closing at least 95% of their educational gender gap.
- Healthcare access remains unequal, with persistent high maternal mortality rates in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central/Southern Asia (World Economic Forum) (World Economic Forum).

UN Women SDG Gender Snapshot 2023:

- By 2030, 342 million women and girls are expected to live in extreme poverty.

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- 24% of women may experience severe food insecurity, exacerbated by climate change.
- Women earn 51 cents for every dollar men earn, with significant time spent on unpaid care work (UN Women) (UN Women).

Workforce Representation (Global Gender Gap Report 2023):

- Women's workforce representation dropped across industries, especially in Consumer Services and Agriculture.
- Government and Public Sector saw an increase in women's representation since 2016, despite a slight dip in early 2023 (World Economic Forum).

Leadership Roles:

- Women represent less than a quarter of senior positions in industries like manufacturing and infrastructure.
- Healthcare and education sectors have higher female representation in leadership, around 40-50% (World Economic Forum).

Economic Participation:

- Women earn 51 cents for every dollar earned by men, highlighting the gender wage gap.
- Women spend 2.3 more hours per day on unpaid care work than men, impacting their economic opportunities (UN Women).

Educational Attainment:

- 117 out of 146 countries have closed at least 95% of their educational gender gap.
- Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia lag in secondary and tertiary education enrollment (World Economic Forum).

Health and Survival:

- 96% global gender parity in health and survival.
- Some Middle Eastern and Sub-Saharan countries have lower healthy life expectancy for women compared to men (World Economic Forum).

Political Representation:

- No country is on track to eliminate intimate partner violence or achieve gender parity in politics by 2050.
- Significant investment needed to advance gender equality in political representation (UN Women).

Food Insecurity:

- 24% of women may face moderate to severe food insecurity by 2030.

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- Gender disparities in agriculture affect women's productivity and access to resources (UN Women).

Climate Impact:

- Up to 236 million women may face food insecurity due to climate change.
- Only 55 national climate action plans include gender-specific measures (UN Women).

Unpaid Care Work:

- Women spend significantly more time on unpaid care work, impacting their economic participation and opportunities (UN Women).

STEM Representation:

- Women hold only 21% of STEM jobs.
- Gender disparities persist in technology and innovation fields (UN Women).

Workplace Management:

- Women's share of workplace management positions will remain below parity even by 2050 (UN Women).

Child Marriage:

- 19% of young women globally are married before age 18, highlighting persistent gender biases (UN Women).

Maternal Mortality:

- Maternal mortality rates remain high in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central/Southern Asia (UN Women).

Water and Sanitation:

- 380 million women and girls live in areas with high water stress, projected to rise due to climate change (UN Women).

Energy Access:

- 341 million women and girls may lack access to electricity by 2030.
- Clean cooking fuels remain out of reach for many women (UN Women).

Urban Living:

- By 2050, urban areas will house 70% of the world's female population, with many living in inadequate housing (UN Women).

HIV Care Disparities:

- Up to 21% of people with HIV report being denied healthcare, with significant disparities affecting women (UN Women).

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Economic Disparities

- Women generate only a third of global labour income, indicating ongoing wage discrimination and career disruptions. (UN Women)

1. **Workforce Representation:** Women hold only 32.2% of senior leadership roles globally. #GenderGap
2. **Wage Disparity:** Women earn just 51 cents for every dollar earned by men. #EqualPay
3. **Education Progress:** 80.1% of countries have closed at least 95% of their educational gender gap. #EducationForAll
4. **Extreme Poverty:** By 2030, 342 million women and girls will live in extreme poverty. #EndPoverty
5. **Food Insecurity:** 24% of women may face severe food insecurity by 2030. #FoodSecurity
6. **Unpaid Care Work:** Women spend 2.3 more hours per day on unpaid care work than men. #UnpaidWork
7. **Maternal Mortality:** Maternal mortality rates remain high in Sub-Saharan Africa. #MaternalHealth
8. **Political Leadership:** No country is on track to achieve gender parity in politics by 2050. #WomenInPolitics
9. **STEM Jobs:** Women hold only 21% of STEM jobs globally. #WomenInSTEM
10. **Child Marriage:** 19% of young women globally are married before age 18. #EndChildMarriage
11. **Water Stress:** 380 million women and girls live in areas with high water stress. #WaterForAll
12. **Energy Access:** 341 million women may lack access to electricity by 2030. #CleanEnergy
13. **Urban Housing:** By 2050, 70% of the world's female population will live in urban areas. #UrbanLiving
14. **HIV Care:** Up to 21% of people with HIV report being denied healthcare, with significant disparities affecting women. #HealthcareAccess
15. **Career Disruptions:** Women generate only a third of global labour income. #EconomicEquality
16. **Food Insecurity and Climate:** Climate change could lead to 236 million more women experiencing food insecurity. #ClimateAction
17. **Leadership in Tech:** Women make up only 16.1% of leadership roles in the tech industry. #WomenInTech

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18. **Economic Participation:** Women earn just 51 cents for every dollar men earn globally. #PayEquity
19. **Educational Gaps:** Nearly 110 million girls could remain out of school by 2030. #EducationMatters
20. **Healthcare Access:** High maternal mortality rates persist in Central/Southern Asia. #HealthForAll
21. **Gender Parity in Politics:** Achieving gender parity in politics by 2050 seems unlikely. #GenderEquality
22. **Wage Gap:** Women's share of workplace management positions will remain below parity even by 2050. #WorkplaceEquality
23. **Unpaid Work Burden:** Women spend significantly more time on unpaid care work than men. #CareWork
24. **Food Security:** Gender disparities in agriculture affect women's productivity. #Agriculture
25. **Leadership Roles:** Women represent less than a quarter of senior positions in industries like manufacturing and infrastructure. #WomenInLeadership
26. **Clean Cooking Fuels:** Clean cooking fuels remain out of reach for many women, impacting health and well-being. #CleanCooking
27. **Legal Rights:** 28 countries do not recognize women's equal rights in marriage and divorce. #LegalEquality
28. **STEM Education:** Women represent just one-third of researchers globally. #WomenInScience
29. **Urban Slums:** A third of urban women and girls could live in inadequate housing by 2050. #UrbanDevelopment
30. **Conflict Zones:** Since 2017, the number of women and girls in conflict zones has surged by 50%. #PeaceAndSecurity
31. Violence against women most pervasive rights violation: UN
32. The ratio of women in Pakistan in the workforce of the financial sector is 12 percent: SBP
33. The current global labour force participation rate for women is just under 47 percent whereas for men it is 72 percent: International Labour Organization
34. Women in Pakistan spend nearly 10 times the hours as men in unpaid care work: UNDP
35. It will take 267.6 years to close the gender gap in economic participation and opportunity: WEF

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36. 649 million women have inadequate maternity protection: International Labour Organization

37. About 830 women die every day from preventable pregnancy-related caused, with 99 percent of these deaths occurring in developing countries, states a UN Women statistic.

38. Even in the 10 top paying jobs for women, females earn less than men; only one career, speech pathology, pays the same regardless of gender.

39. Despite previous attempts to ratify a UN treaty guaranteeing the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, the US refuses to support an international bill of rights for women signed by nearly every other nation on the planet.

40. A 2021 survey by the Legal and General pension group found that women's household income in the UK fell by 33 percent following a divorce – nearly double the impact on men post-divorce.

B

41. Access to education is life-changing. Sending girls to school leads to improved literacy, higher wages, and faster income growth. It reduces the chance of premarital sex, lowers the chance of early marriage, delays first births, and helps mothers learn about how to plan and space their births apart. Whilst the benefits are endless, girls around the world continue to face barriers to secondary and post-secondary education.

Gender discrimination is encoded into law in countries across the globe. These are just a few examples:

- 113 countries do not have laws to ensure equal pay for equal work among men and women.
- 104 countries make certain jobs off-limits for women.
- 39 countries have laws that mean a daughter cannot inherit the same proportion of assets as a son.
- 36 countries limit what wives can inherit from their husbands.
- 29 countries restrict the hours women can work.
- 18 countries allow men to prohibit their wives from working.
- 17 countries limit when and how women can travel outside the home.
- Women earn 78 cents for every dollar a man makes.
- Only 17 percent of the seats in Congress are held by women.
- Although 48 percent of law school graduates and 45 percent of law firm associates are female, women make up only 22 percent of federal-level and 26 percent of state-level judgeships.

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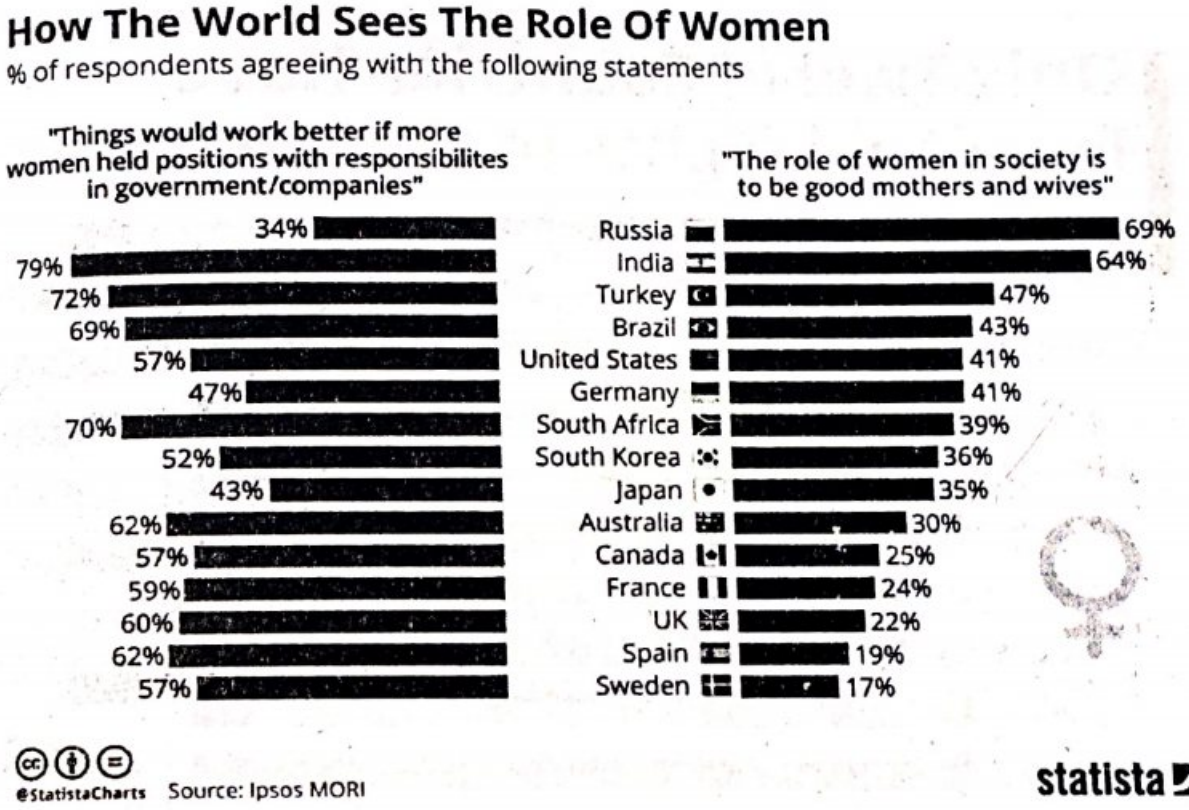

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

From domestic violence to traditional harmful social practices and sexual exploitation, violence against women and girls happens all over the world.

- 1 in 3 women around the world experience violence (source: World Health Organization).
- 58% of all women murdered in 2017 were killed by an intimate partner or a family member (source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018).
- Around 650 million women across the globe were married before the age of 18 (source: Unicef, 2018).
- Over 200 million women and girls in 30 countries have undergone female genital mutilation (source: Unicef, 2016).
- 71% of all human trafficking involves women and girls – mainly for sexual exploitation (source: UNODC, 2016).
- Women and girls suffer the most during violent conflict due to inequality and discrimination. They are more at risk of sexual violence, exploitation and trafficking during war. One in 5 female refugees and internally displaced people (someone who is forced to leave their home but remains in their country) have experienced sexual violence in countries affected by conflict.

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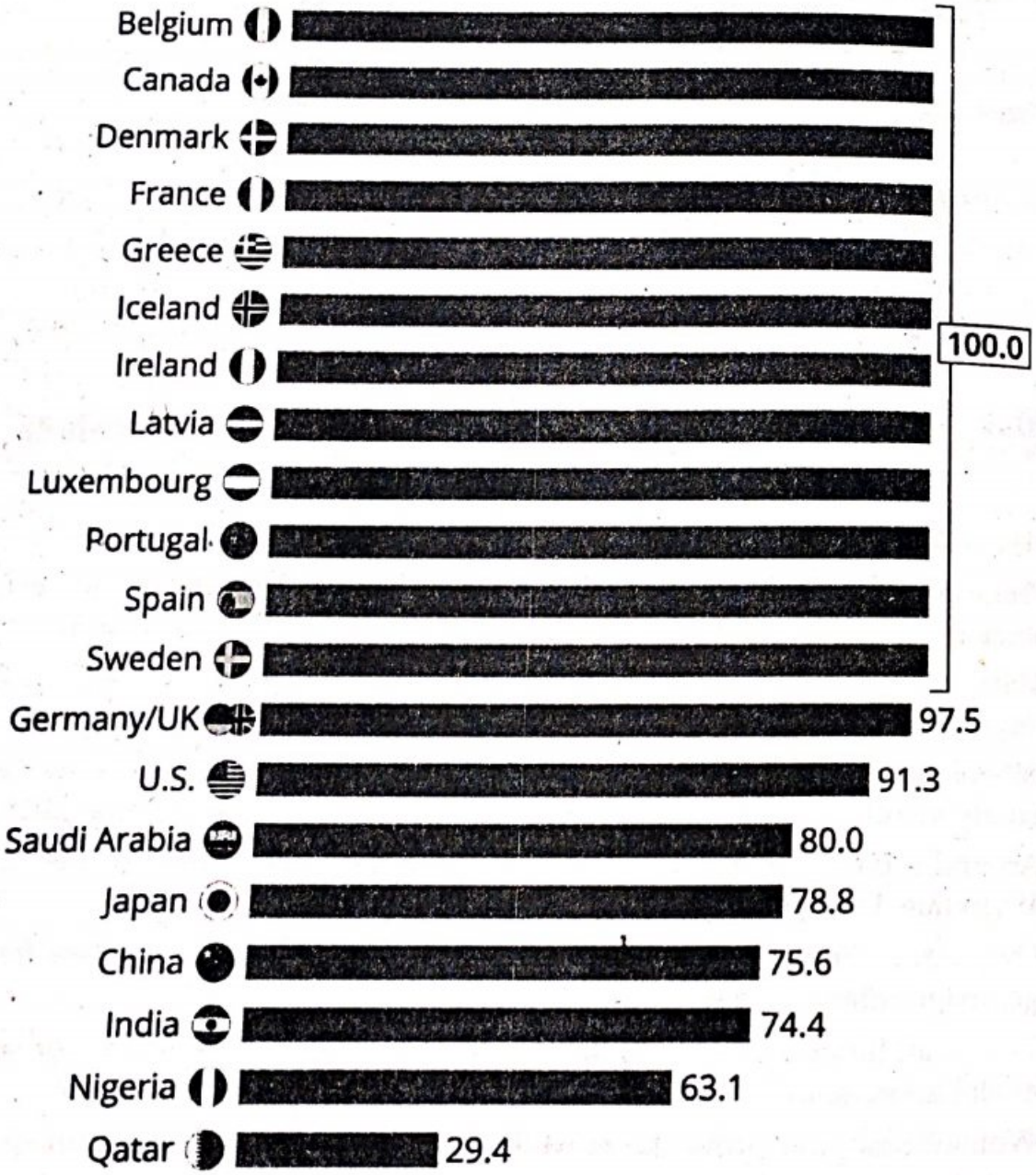
Only Twelve Countries Have Full Equal Rights for Women

Index scores for equality guaranteed by law in selected countries (2022)*



* laws concerning freedom of movement, work, equal pay, marriage, child rearing, business ownership, asset management and pensions taken into account

Source: Women, Business and the Law 2022 (World Bank)

statista

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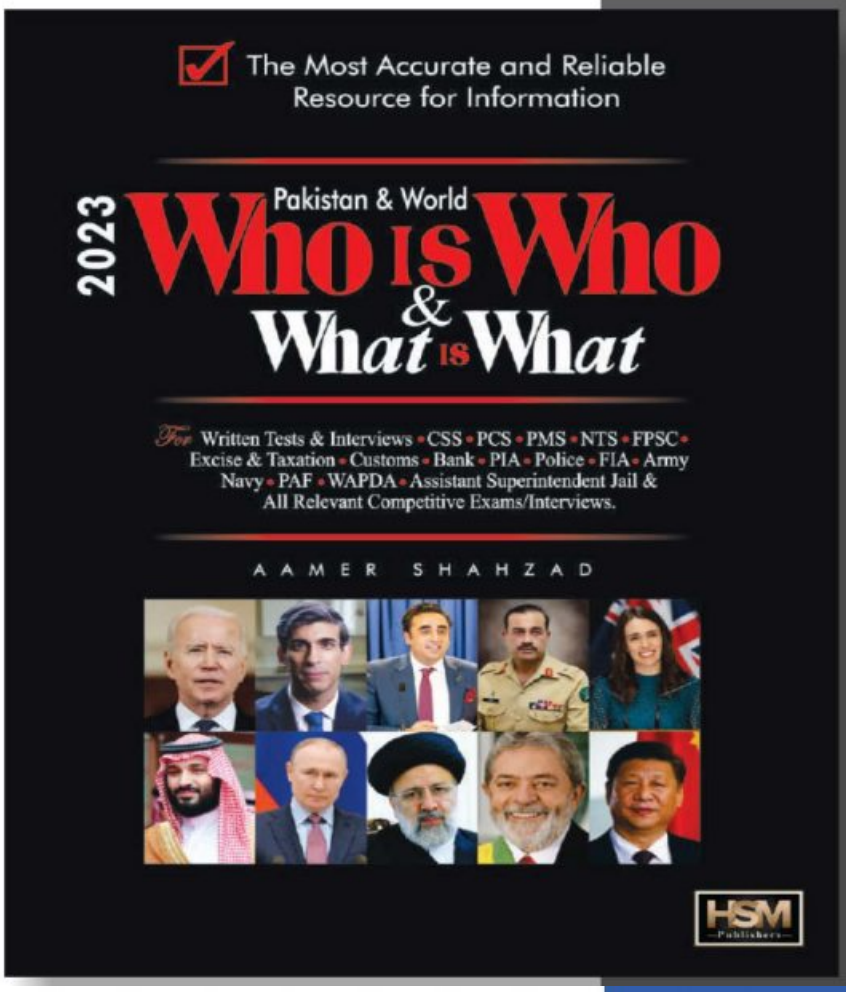

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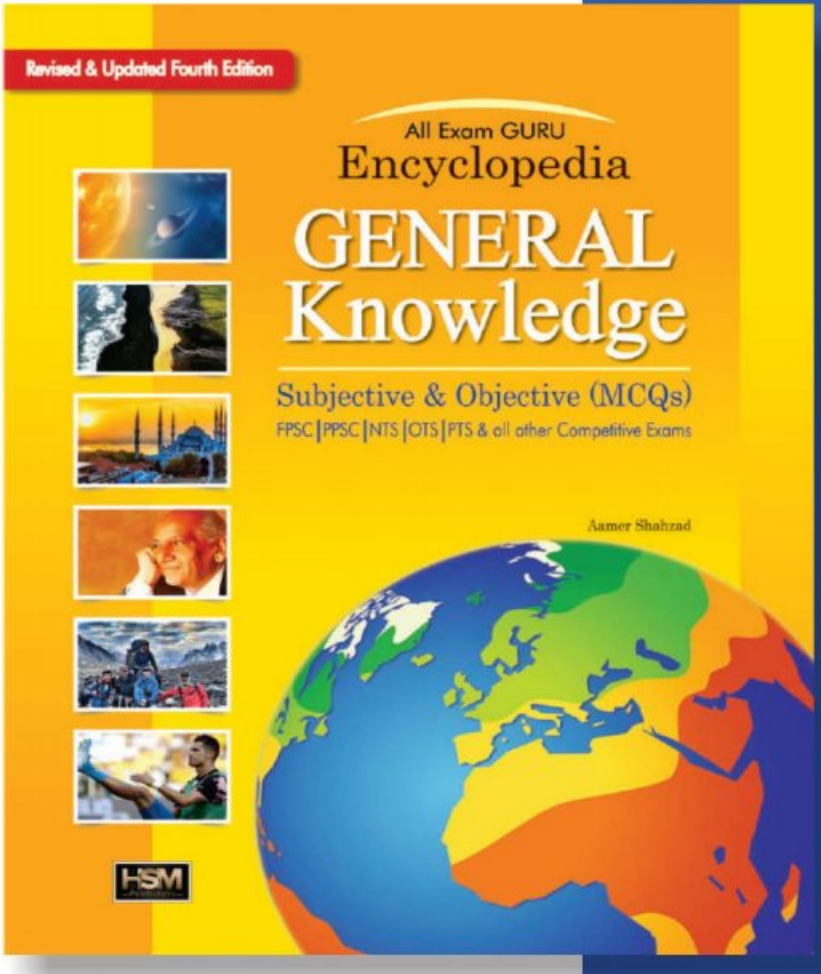

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WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Women don't have the same economic rights as men. Unpaid care work, lack of fair pay and job security, poor working conditions, and limited opportunity to own land and inherit property are all undermining women's rights. Women can't earn a living and take control of their lives.

- Women spend at least twice as much time as men on domestic work, and when all work – (paid and unpaid) – is considered, women work longer hours than men (source: The World's Women, 2015).
- Over 2.7 billion women don't have the same work opportunities as men, with laws restricting the types of jobs they can do (source: World Bank, 2018).
- Less than 15 percent of landholders worldwide are women, despite most women in the global south working in agriculture (source: Food and Agriculture Organization, 2015; World Bank, 2019).
- In 2018, the estimated global gender pay gap was 22 percent, with women earning around 78 percent of what men are paid (source: ILO, 2018).
- Nearly 82 million women around the world don't have any legal protection against discrimination in the workplace (source: World Policy Analysis Center, 2017).

WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP (UN-WOMEN)

- As of September 1, 2021, there are 26 women serving as Heads of State and/or Government in 24 countries. At the current rate, gender equality in the highest positions of power will not be reached for another 130 years.
- Just 10 countries have a woman Head of State, and 13 countries have a woman Head of Government.
- Only 21 percent of government ministers were women, with only 14 countries having achieved 50 percent or more women in cabinets. With an annual increase of just 0.52 percentage points, gender parity in ministerial positions will not be achieved before 2077.
- The five most commonly held portfolios by women ministers are: Family/children/youth/elderly/disabled; followed by Social affairs; Environment/natural resources/energy; Employment/labour/vocational training, and Women affairs/gender equality.
- Only four countries have 50 percent or more women in parliament in single or lower houses: Rwanda with 61 percent, Cuba with 53 per cent, Bolivia with 53 per cent, and the United Arab Emirates with 50 percent.

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- A further 19 countries have reached or surpassed 40 per cent, including nine countries in Europe, five in Latin America and the Caribbean, four in Africa, and one in the Pacific.
- More than two-thirds of these countries have applied gender quotas—either legislated candidate quotas or reserved seats—opening space for women's political participation in national parliaments.
- Globally, there are 27 States in which women account for less than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in single or lower houses, including four single/lower chambers with no women at all.
- At the current rate of progress, gender parity in national legislative bodies will not be achieved before 2063.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Northern America, women hold more than 30 percent of parliamentary seats. In Northern Africa and Western Asia and Oceania, there are less than 17 percent of women in national parliaments. Women's representation is the lowest in the Pacific Island States as women hold 6 percent of seats, and they are not represented in parliaments in three countries.
- Many analysts have noted how women leaders around the world have demonstrated successful management of the COVID-19 pandemic based on inclusive, evidence-based leadership. Yet, women lead only 7 percent of countries.
- A survey of 30 countries with COVID-19 task forces and committees showed that, on average, only 24 percent of members were women. In conflict-affected countries, women's representation in COVID-19 taskforces is even lower, at 18 percent.
- Worldwide women's representation in national parliament has increased from 13.1 percent in 2000 to 24.9 percent in 2020. In conflict-affected countries, women's representation in parliament remains lower at 18.9 percent in 2020.
- In 2020, women's representation in national parliament in conflict and post-conflict countries with legislated quotas is more than twice that of those without (23 percent and 10.8 percent, respectively); the share of women in local government with quotas is 26 percent, more than three times higher than that of those without.
- In Afghanistan, 25 percent of the provincial council seats are reserved for women. However, the leadership of the 34 councils is overwhelmingly held by men, who chair 33 of them.
- Women's representation in Mali's parliament increased noticeably to 28 percent in 2020 from about 10 percent over the last two decades.

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- Globally, 43 percent of women and 53 percent of men believe men make better political leaders than women, according to UN Women.

WOMEN'S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN PEACE PROCESSES

UN Facts

- Between 1992 and 2019, women constituted, on average, 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 percent of mediators, and 6 percent of signatories in major peace processes worldwide. About seven out of every 10 peace processes did not include woman mediators or woman signatories.
- Worldwide, the proportion of peace agreements with gender equality provisions increased from 14 to 22 percent between 1995 and 2019.
- Between 2015-19, only 11 percent of ceasefire agreements included gender provisions, compared to 26 per cent of other peace agreement types.
- In Mali, after the signing of the Algiers peace agreement in 2015, women made up 3 percent of the National Commission on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, 6 per cent of the National Council for Security Sector Reform, 20 percent of the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission, and 4 percent of the subcommittees of the Agreement Monitoring Committee.
- In the Central African Republic, the proportion of women in the formal monitoring mechanisms of the Peace Agreement is 17 percent at the national level and 23 percent at the local level.
- In South Sudan, only two committees have met the 35 percent quota for women laid out in the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan.
- Colombia offers the rare exception where women are better represented and where the implementation of the gender provisions in the peace agreement are tracked by both the government and civil society.

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

- In 26 conflict-affected countries, the United Nations has verified 102 killings of women human rights' defenders, journalists, and trade unionists from 2015 to 2019, a likely undercount.
- In 2019, the United Nations documented 2,838 cases of conflict-related sexual violence, of which 96 percent targeted women and girls.
- In 2018, women and girls accounted for about 65 percent of more than 45,000 detected trafficking victims globally.

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- A growing body of evidence points to the critical role of gender norms and power structures in determining the impact of climate-related security risks on women and men. In the Dry Corridor of Central America, for instance, climate-related migration has increased women's burdens by having to travel greater distances to secure water and to spend more time caring for ill people of all ages.
- Additionally, an estimated 7.4 million people required malnutrition treatment or prevention intervention, including 3.2 million children aged 6-59 months and more than 1 million pregnant and lactating women in 2019.
- In certain conflict-affected or fragile states, maternal mortality is alarmingly high, though the ratio worldwide dropped by 38 percent since 2000 (from 342 to 211 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births). The maternal mortality has worsened in Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria, and Venezuela in recent years.
- Funding for promoting gender equality in humanitarian action remains low. A joint study by UN Women and UNFPA covering Bangladesh, Nigeria, Jordan, and Somalia showed that less than 51 percent of the funding requested to meet the needs of crisis-affected women and girls was received, and gender-targeted programmes were disproportionately underfunded.

FINANCING THE WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY AGENDA

- Total bilateral aid committed to support gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected countries continued to increase, reaching US$ 20.5 billion per year between 2017–18. However, the share of aid dedicated to programmes or projects with the primary objective of improving gender equality and women's rights has decreased to 4.5 percent in 2017–18 from 5.3 percent in 2015–16.
- Over the last decade, bilateral aid directly to women organizations in fragile or conflict-affected countries has stagnated at 0.2 percent of total bilateral aid (US$ 96 million on average per year in 2017–18).
- In 2019, the Peacebuilding Fund approved investments of US$ 191 million in 34 countries. Forty percent of all Fund investments supported gender-responsive peacebuilding, within which 14 percent was dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal objective, an increase from 12 percent in 2018.
- The Myanmar Joint Peace Fund has earmarked 15 percent for gender equality and opened a separate window for women, peace and security. In Colombia, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund raised this minimum from the original 15 percent to 30 percent in 2019.

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- Since 2016, the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund has funded more than 200 grass-roots civil society organizations in conflict-affected countries and humanitarian settings.
- In 2019, total expenditure by UN women on peace and security programming and humanitarian interventions rose to US$ 110.53 million, up from US$ 89.44 million in 2018, increasing the reach of programming from 55 to 65 countries and territories.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES FOR ADVANCING WOMEN'S PEACE AND SECURITY

- As of October 2020, 88 countries (and territories) had national action plans (NAPs) on women, peace and security (close to half of the United Nations membership) — an increase from 53 in 2015 and 19 in 2010. Seventy-eight percent of European Union Member States have adopted NAPs, and 47 percent of African Union Member States.
- Fifty-five local action plans on women, peace and security have been adopted in 16 countries.
- Only 20 NAPs included a budget at adoption. Canada, Iceland, Norway and Sweden are among countries that have taken steps towards more comprehensive tracking of NAP-related spending.
- Only 17 NAPs mention climate change. Gender equality is largely absent from policy debates on climate change and security.
- As of September 2020, the Women and Peace and Security Focal Points Network had 87 members.
- As of January 2020, four countries—Canada, France, Mexico and Sweden—had adopted feminist foreign or development policies.

UN PROGRESS ON GENDER PARITY AND MAINSTREAMING IN PEACE AND SECURITY

- The United Nations secretary-general's gender parity strategy has yielded positive results. As of August 2020, women accounted for 41 percent of the senior leadership of special political missions and peacekeeping operations, an increase from 21 percent in 2017 when the strategy was launched.
- Gender parity has been sustained among United Nations Resident Coordinators globally since 2017 and, for the first time, reached across conflict-affected countries in 2019.
- As of September 2020, 10 peacekeeping missions had gender units, and seven of them were located in the office of the head of the mission.

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- Among special political missions, there were 27 Gender Advisers in 2019, a historic high. Five missions were served by senior Gender Advisers (P5 or above) and nine missions were served by P4 level Gender Advisers. Gender Advisers were absent in seven missions, in which three had less than 10 professional staff.
- In special political missions, the majority of gender posts and activities are funded through extrabudgetary resources.
- In 2019, seven peacekeeping operations and special political missions had women protection advisors.
- As of May 2020, 5.4 percent of United Nations military and 15.1 percent of police personnel were women, compared to 3 and 10 percent respectively in 2015.

SECURITY COUNCIL'S WORK ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

- Since 2000, the Security Council has adopted a total of 10 dedicated resolutions on women, peace and security: resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), and 2493 (2019).
- Security Council resolutions with explicit references to women, peace and security issues reached 70 percent on average between 2017 and 2019, compared to 15 percent from 2000-2005.
- The Council's attention to the agenda, however, remain uneven. In 2019, 67 percent of the resolutions adopted by the Council included women, peace and security, slightly down from 72 percent in 2018. The proportion of presidential statements dropped sharply to 40 percent, compared to 85 percent in 2018.
- More women civil society representatives brief the Security Council. In 2019, 39 percent of the 387 speakers that briefed the Council were women, breaking the previous records of 30 percent in 2018 and 24 percent in 2017.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- A survey by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund found 30 per cent of its local civil society partners reported that their organization's existence was at risk due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and its effects.
- The pandemic and worldwide lockdowns exposed the enormous value of unpaid care and domestic work for the economy and how disproportionately this burden is shouldered by women. In several conflict-affected countries, women perform three to seven times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men.

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- A United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s projection conducted in April 2020 estimated that the COVID-19 pandemic could result in more than 47 million women in 114 low- and middle-income countries not being able to access modern contraceptives, and 7 million unintended pregnancies being expected to occur if the lockdown carries on for 6 months and there are major disruptions to health services. For every 3 months the lockdown continues, up to an additional 2 million women may be unable to use modern contraceptives.
- After the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, increased violence against women and girls has been reported by government, civil society organizations, women's rights organizations, and media reports in about 70 countries across different geographic regions. Selected reports include:
- After the pandemic outbreak, there has been an increase in calls to helplines. In Tunisia, for instance, calls to a helpline in the first days of confinement increased fivefold.
- The frequency and intensity of violence has increased. For instance, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Center for Women's Rights reports rates of physical violence against survivors who are now in lockdown with their perpetrators are rapidly increasing, accompanied with increased rates of psychological violence.
- Violence in humanitarian setting has also increased. In Iraq, the Organization of Women's Freedom reported that intake requests have doubled since the lockdown, especially from young women. In the State of Palestine, the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling reported a 75 percent increase in social and legal consultations, primarily from urban areas, but also from the rural areas and refugee camps.
- The International Labour Organization's latest data show that under the COVID-19 pandemic, employment losses are larger for women than for men. For instance, in Colombia, the decline in employment between Q2/2019 and Q2/2020 was 27 percent for women and 18 percent for men.
- In response to COVID-19 crisis, more than 417 policy measures have been enacted by national governments in 42 conflict-affected countries with data. Of these, 179 measures (43 percent) are gender-sensitive, seeking to directly address the specific risks and challenges that women and girls face as a result of the pandemic. The majority measures address violence against women and girls (125 measures across 27 countries), followed by measures to address women's economic security (47 measures across 26 countries), with very few measures to address unpaid care work (7 measures across 5 countries).

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GENERAL GLOBAL STATISTICS INTERESTING FACTS

A

1. **Global Population:** The world population reached 8 billion in November 2022. #GlobalPopulation
2. **Tallest Building:** The Burj Khalifa in Dubai stands at 828 metres (2,717 feet) tall. #BurjKhalifa
3. **Largest Desert:** The Sahara Desert is the largest hot desert, covering 9.2 million square kilometres. #Sahara
4. **Languages:** There are over 7,000 languages spoken globally, with Mandarin Chinese being the most spoken native language. #Languages
5. **Internet Users:** As of 2024, there are approximately 5.3 billion internet users worldwide. #InternetUsers
6. **Oldest Civilization:** The Sumerians of Mesopotamia are considered one of the earliest civilizations, dating back to 4500 BCE. #AncientHistory
7. **Longest River:** The Nile River is the longest river in the world, stretching about 6,650 kilometres (4,130 miles). #NileRiver
8. **Largest Forest:** The Amazon Rainforest covers over 5.5 million square kilometres, producing 20% of the world's oxygen. #AmazonRainforest
9. **Global Economy:** The global GDP in 2023 is estimated to be $105 trillion. #GlobalEconomy
10. **Fastest Train:** The Shanghai Maglev Train reaches speeds of up to 431 km/h (268 mph). #ShanghaiMaglev
11. **Deepest Ocean:** The Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean is the deepest part of the world's oceans, reaching about 11,034 metres (36,201 feet). #MarianaTrench
12. **Largest Country:** Russia is the largest country by land area, covering over 17 million square kilometres. #Russia
13. **Smallest Country:** Vatican City is the smallest independent state, measuring just 44 hectares (110 acres). #VaticanCity
14. **Most Visited City:** Bangkok, Thailand, is the most visited city with over 22 million international visitors annually. #Bangkok
15. **Richest Person:** As of 2023, Bernard Arnault, the CEO of LVMH, is the richest person with a net worth exceeding $200 billion. #Wealth
16. **Renewable Energy:** Over 29% of global electricity generation comes from renewable sources. #RenewableEnergy

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17. **Most Populated City:** Tokyo, Japan, is the most populated city with over 37 million residents. #Tokyo
18. **Longest Coastline:** Canada has the longest coastline in the world, measuring 202,080 kilometres (125,567 miles). #Canada
19. **Highest Waterfall:** Angel Falls in Venezuela is the highest waterfall, with a height of 979 meters (3,212 feet). #AngelFalls
20. **Largest Island:** Greenland is the world's largest island, covering 2.16 million square kilometres. #Greenland
21. **Space Exploration:** As of 2023, 600 people have travelled to space. #SpaceExploration
22. **Biodiversity:** Brazil is home to the largest number of species, including 20% of the world's bird species. #Biodiversity
23. **Electric Vehicles:** There are over 20 million electric vehicles on the roads globally. #ElectricVehicles
24. **Global Literacy:** The global literacy rate is 86%, with significant improvements in developing countries. #Literacy
25. **Largest Volcano:** Mauna Loa in Hawaii is the largest volcano on Earth by volume and area covered. #MaunaLoa
26. **Nobel Prizes:** Over 900 Nobel Prizes have been awarded since their inception in 1901. #NobelPrize
27. **World Heritage Sites:** There are 1,157 UNESCO World Heritage Sites across the globe. #WorldHeritage
28. **Fastest Internet:** Singapore has the fastest average internet speed, reaching 262.2 Mbps. #InternetSpeed
29. **Coffee Consumption:** Finland has the highest coffee consumption per capita, averaging 12 kilograms per person annually. #Coffee
30. **Global Tourism:** International tourism generated $1.9 trillion in revenue in 2023. #Tourism
31. **Happiest Country:** Finland ranks as the happiest country in the world for 2023. #Happiness
32. **Largest Coral Reef:** The Great Barrier Reef in Australia spans over 2,300 kilometres and is the largest coral reef system. #GreatBarrierReef
33. **Most Languages:** Papua New Guinea has the most languages spoken within its borders, with over 850 distinct languages. #Languages
34. **Highest Mountain:** Mount Everest, located on the border of Nepal and China, stands at 8,848 metres (29,029 feet) tall. #MountEverest
35. **Longest Bridge:** The Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge in China is the longest bridge in the world, stretching 164.8 kilometres (102.4 miles). #LongestBridge

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36. **Largest Population:** India has the largest population, with over 1.4 billion people. #Population
37. **Largest Lake:** The Caspian Sea, bordered by five countries, is the largest enclosed inland body of water. #CaspianSea
38. **Most Spoken Language:** English is the most spoken language in the world when combining native and non-native speakers. #EnglishLanguage
39. **Highest GDP per Capita:** Luxembourg has the highest GDP per capita, exceeding $120,000. #GDP
40. **Largest Cathedral:** St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City is the largest cathedral in the world. #StPetersBasilica
41. **Oldest University:** The University of al-Qarawiyyin in Morocco, founded in 859 AD, is the oldest existing university. #University
42. **Most Diverse City:** New York City is considered the most culturally diverse city in the world. #NYC
43. **Longest Railway:** The Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest railway line, spanning 9,289 kilometres (5,772 miles) from Moscow to Vladivostok. #TransSiberian
44. **Oldest Living Tree:** Methuselah, a bristlecone pine in California, is the oldest known living tree, estimated to be over 4,800 years old. #OldestTree
45. Most Visited Museum: The Louvre in Paris is the most visited museum, attracting over 9 million visitors annually. #Louvre
46. Most Populated Continent: Asia is the most populated continent, home to 60% of the world's population. #Asia
47. Largest National Park: Northeast Greenland National Park is the largest national park in the world, covering 972,000 square kilometres. #NationalParks
48. **Oldest Written Language:** Sumerian cuneiform, developed around 3400 BCE, is the oldest known written language. #WrittenLanguage
49. Largest Waterfall by Volume: In terms of volume, the Inga Falls in the Democratic Republic of Congo is the largest waterfall. #IngaFalls
50. **Largest Stadium:** The Rungrado 1st of May Stadium in North Korea is the largest stadium, with a capacity of 114,000 spectators. #LargestStadium
51. **Highest Capital City:** La Paz, Bolivia, is the highest capital city in the world, sitting at about 3,650 meters (11,975 feet) above sea level. #LaPaz
52. **Richest Natural Resource Country:** Russia is considered the richest country in terms of natural resources, valued at over $75 trillion. #NaturalResources
53. **Most Nuclear Reactors:** The United States has the most nuclear reactors, with 93 operational as of 2023. #NuclearEnergy
54. **Largest Oil Producer:** The United States is the largest producer of crude oil, surpassing 18 million barrels per day. #OilProduction

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55. **Highest Average Temperature:** Kuwait holds the record for the highest average temperature in a year, with temperatures regularly exceeding 45°C (113°F). #Climate
56. **Oldest National Flag:** Denmark's flag, the Dannebrog, is the oldest continuously used national flag, dating back to 1219. #Flags
57. **Largest Wine Producer:** Italy is the largest producer of wine, making over 50 million hectoliters annually. #Wine
58. **Largest Diamond Producer:** Russia is the largest producer of diamonds by volume, followed by Botswana. #Diamonds
59. **Largest Airport:** King Fahd International Airport in Saudi Arabia is the largest airport by area, covering about 780 square kilometres. #Aviation
60. **Longest Wall:** The Great Wall of China is the longest wall in the world, stretching over 21,196 kilometres (13,171 miles). #GreatWall
61. **Oldest New Year Celebration:** The Chinese New Year is one of the oldest New Year celebrations, dating back over 3,500 years. #ChineseNewYear
62. **Richest Country by GDP:** The United States has the highest GDP, exceeding $25 trillion in 2023. #Economy
63. Largest Mosque: The Great Mosque of Makkah, also known as Masjid al-Haram, is the largest mosque in the world, with a capacity of 4 million people. #Makkah
64. **Most Diverse Country:** India is considered the most ethnically diverse country, with over 2,000 distinct ethnic groups. #India
65. Most Spoken Second Language: English is the most spoken second language globally. #Languages
66. **Longest Flight:** The longest non-stop commercial flight is from Singapore to New York, covering 15,349 kilometres (9,537 miles) in about 18.5 hours. #Travel
67. **Most Visited Website:** Google is the most visited website in the world, with over 90 billion visits per month. #Internet
68. **Largest Ocean:** The Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest ocean, covering more than 63 million square miles and reaching depths of over 36,000 feet. #Oceans
69. **Largest Freshwater Lake:** Lake Baikal in Russia is the largest freshwater lake by volume and the deepest lake, holding about 20% of the world's fresh surface water. #LakeBaikal
70. **Oldest Zoo:** The Vienna Zoo in Austria, founded in 1752, is the world's oldest continuously operating zoo. #ViennaZoo
71. **Largest Film Industry:** India's Bollywood produces the most films annually, with over 1,800 movies produced each year. #Bollywood

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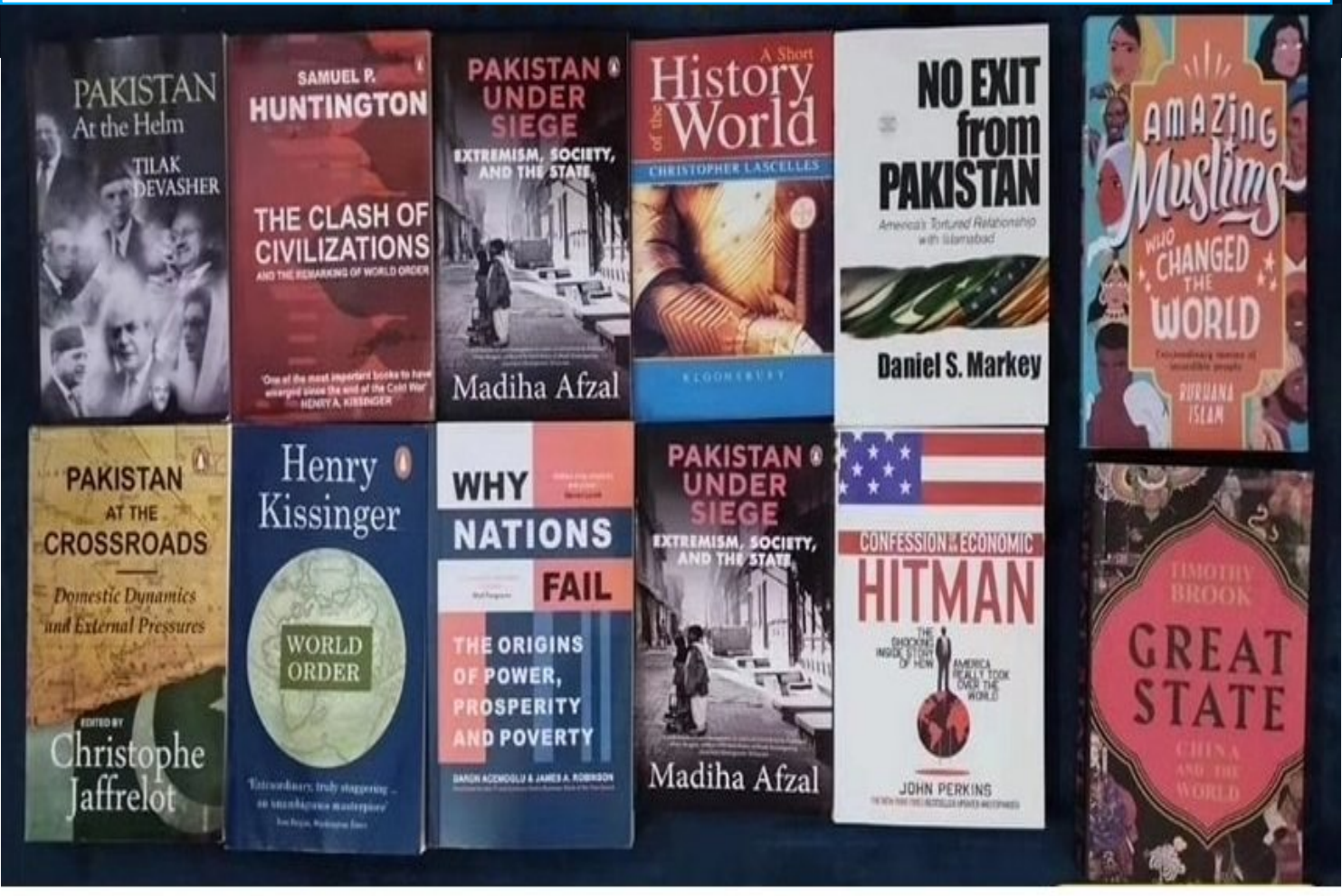

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72. **Most Forested Country:** Suriname has the highest percentage of forest cover, with 98.3% of its land area covered by forests. #Forestry
73. **Largest Glacier:** The Lambert Glacier in Antarctica is the largest glacier in the world, measuring about 100 kilometres (62 miles) wide. #Glaciers
74. **Highest Paid Athlete:** Lionel Messi was the highest-paid athlete in 2023, earning over $130 million. #Sports
75. **Largest Theme Park:** Walt Disney World Resort in Florida is the largest theme park, covering nearly 25,000 acres. #DisneyWorld
76. **Oldest Currency:** The British pound sterling is the world's oldest currency still in use, dating back to 760 AD. #Currency
77. **Largest Library:** The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., is the largest library in the world, with over 170 million items. #LibraryOfCongress
78. **Largest Bank:** The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) is the largest bank by total assets, exceeding $4 trillion. #Banking
79. **Most Populated Island:** Java in Indonesia is the most populated island, home to over 140 million people. #Java
80. **Tallest Statue:** The Statue of Unity in India is the tallest statue in the world, standing at 182 metres (597 feet). #StatueOfUnity
81. **Most Expensive Painting:** Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" sold for $450 million, making it the most expensive painting ever sold. #Art
82. **Largest Cave:** Son Doong Cave in Vietnam is the largest cave in the world, with some chambers large enough to house an entire city block. #SonDoongCave
83. **Longest Married Couple:** Herbert and Zelmyra Fisher of the United States hold the record for the longest marriage, lasting 86 years until Herbert's death. #Love
84. **Oldest Active Volcano:** Mount Etna in Italy is one of the world's oldest active volcanoes, with eruptions dating back to 1500 BC. #MountEtna
85. Highest Grossing Movie: "Avatar" remains the highest-grossing movie of all time, with over $2.9 billion in worldwide box office revenue. #Movies
86. **Longest River Cruise:** The Amazon River cruise is the longest river cruise, spanning over 4,000 miles from Peru to Brazil. #Amazon
87. **Largest Canyon:** The Grand Canyon in the United States is the largest canyon, measuring 277 miles long and up to 18 miles wide. #GrandCanyon
88. **Oldest Known Living Animal:** A quahog clam named "Ming" was discovered to be 507 years old. #Longevity
89. **Most Earthquakes:** Japan experiences the most earthquakes of any country due to its location along the Pacific Ring of Fire. #Earthquakes
90. **Largest Producer of Coffee:** Brazil is the largest producer of coffee, supplying over a third of the world's coffee. #Coffee

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91. **Longest National Anthem:** Greece has the longest national anthem, consisting of 158 verses. #NationalAnthem
92. **Most Common Surname:** "Li" is the most common surname in the world, with over 100 million people. #Surnames
93. **Largest Aquatic Mammal:** The blue whale is the largest aquatic mammal, reaching lengths of up to 100 feet and weighing up to 200 tons. #BlueWhale
94. **Highest Average Life Expectancy:** Monaco has the highest average life expectancy at 89.4 years. #LifeExpectancy
95. **Most Remote Place:** Tristan da Cunha, an island in the South Atlantic Ocean, is the most remote inhabited place, 2,400 km from the nearest land. #Remote
96. **Largest Archipelago:** Indonesia is the largest archipelago, with over 17,000 islands. #Indonesia
97. **Highest Water Consumption:** The United States has the highest per capita water consumption, using about 1,500 gallons per person per day. #WaterUse
98. **Fastest Growing Economy:** India is projected to be the fastest-growing major economy, with growth rates exceeding 7% annually. #Economy
99. **Longest Railway Platform:** Gorakhpur Railway Station in India has the longest railway platform at 1,366 meters (4,482 feet). #Railways
100. **Largest Honey Producer:** China is the largest producer of honey, accounting for about 30% of the world's supply. #Honey
101. **Longest Tunnel:** The Gotthard Base Tunnel in Switzerland is the longest and deepest railway tunnel, stretching 57 kilometres (35 miles). #Tunnel
102. **Most Expensive Building:** The Abraj Al Bait in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, is the most expensive building, costing $15 billion. #Architecture
103. **Largest Flower:** The Rafflesia arnoldii in Indonesia produces the largest flower, with a diameter of up to 3 feet. #Flora
104. **Most Photographed City:** New York City is the most photographed city in the world. #Photography
105. **Largest Stadium by Capacity:** The Narendra Modi Stadium in India has the highest capacity, holding up to 132,000 spectators. #Stadium
106. **Coldest Inhabited Place:** Oymyakon in Russia is the coldest inhabited place on Earth, with temperatures dropping to -67.7°C (-89.9°F). #Weather
107. **Longest Beach:** Praia do Cassino in Brazil is the longest beach, stretching over 150 miles. #Beaches
108. **Oldest City:** Jericho, located in the West Bank, is considered the oldest continuously inhabited city, dating back to 9,000 BC. #History
109. **Largest Mall:** The Dubai Mall in the UAE is the largest shopping mall by total area, covering over 1.1 million square metres. #Shopping

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110. **Most Populated Capital:** Tokyo, Japan, is the most populated capital city with over 37 million residents. #Tokyo
111. **Tallest Waterfall:** Angel Falls in Venezuela is the tallest waterfall, plunging 979 metres (3,212 feet). #Waterfalls
112. **Highest Grossing Music Tour:** Elton John's "Farewell Yellow Brick Road" tour is the highest grossing tour, with earnings exceeding $817 million. #Music
113. **Most Diverse Marine Ecosystem:** The Coral Triangle in Southeast Asia is the most diverse marine ecosystem, home to 76% of the world's coral species. #MarineLife
114. **Largest Tree by Volume:** The General Sherman tree in California's Sequoia National Park is the largest by volume, with 52,500 cubic feet. #Nature
115. **Most Solar Energy Production:** China leads in solar energy production, with over 253 GW of installed solar capacity. #RenewableEnergy
116. 35 percent of the world's population experiences stress, chiefly caused by the fear of being unattended: Gallup
117. The UN Human Rights Council recognized access to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right.
118. The world population increased from 1 billion in 1800 to 8.1 billion November (2023).
119. Each year, US's Internal Revenue Service takes in $600bn less than it should, says Bloomberg
120. The UN projects that the global population increases from a population of 7.7 billion in 2019 to 10.9 billion by the end of the century.
121. The global average fertility rate is just below 2.5 children per woman today.
122. More than 4 billion people live in urban areas globally.
123. 55 percent of world population live in urban areas.
124. Americans bought 19.9m firearms in 2021, a 12.5pc decrease from the year prior but the second-busiest year on record as politics and public health continue to drive interest in owning guns.

B

125. Around 800,000 people commit suicide globally every year, with depression being one of the leading causes: WHO
126. Since the beginning of the year, the market value of cryptocurrencies has decreased by approximately $500bn, plummeting from $2.2tr to $1.68tr, reports Forbes.
127. According to the annual survey by the Berlin-based organization Transparency International, Somalia, North Korea, and Afghanistan are

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perceived to be the most corrupt, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden are perceived to be the world's least corrupt countries.

128. In 2019 an estimated 5.2 million children under 5 years died mostly from preventable and treatable causes. Children aged 1 to 11 months accounted for 1.5 million of these deaths while children aged 1 to 4 years accounted for 1.3 million deaths. Newborns (under 28 days) accounted for the remaining 2.4 million deaths (WHO Report)

129. The world needs to produce at least 50 percent more food by 2050 to feed a projected 9 billion people.

130. 400 million people worldwide lack access to essential health services.

131. 250 million primary school-aged children cannot read or write although many have been in school.

132. 90 percent of countries have at least one legal restriction for women seeking economic opportunities.

133. 2.4 billion People do not have access to toilets, and of these, 946 million still defecate in the open.

134. Male public school teachers earn $2,200 more than their female colleagues of similar contexts and with comparable qualifications, even though women make up most of the workforce in the teaching profession, as per the think tank Brookings Institution

C

135. Journalists' killings declined by 20pc in 2016-20 globally: UNESCO

136. Globally, 1.1 billion people still don't have access to electricity.

137. In South Asia, 60 percent of working women are employed in the agricultural sector.

138. Globally, about 1 in 1,000 people work in research and development (R&D).

139. Only one-third of the world's poor are covered by social safety nets.

140. Global solid waste generation is projected to exceed 11 million tons per day by 2100.

141. Climate change could cut crop yields by more than 25 percent.

142. About 1 billion people worldwide rely on seafood as a primary source of animal protein.

143. Globally, 54 million people work in the forest sector.

144. Over 100 countries worldwide already have access to information laws.

D

145. The USA alone needs over 1.5 million more data scientists, analysts and data-literate managers.

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146. In 2020, the earth's surface temperature was around 0.98°C degrees warmer than the 20th century average.

147. Japanese scientists says laughing with others can keep us healthy in old age and make us nearly 40pc less likely to develop health problems, according to the World Economic Forum

148. Crime analysis has spawned the '80/20 rule', a concept in which a large majority of incidents occur at a small minority of locations – for example, 80 per cent of incidents at 20pc of locations.

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REPORTS ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS

A

1. By 2030, one in every four workers will be 55 years old or older in the G7 countries, according to the World Economic Forum
2. About 59pc of the planet's biodiversity is found in soil, making it the most diverse habitat on Earth, according to the World Economic Forum
3. Tech billionaires lost another $200bn in 2023, as their numbers and collective wealth decline on Forbes 2023 ranking of the world's wealthiest people
4. Landmines continue to kill, maim innocent civilians: UN
5. Americans' dissatisfaction with US gun laws has risen to 63pc, the highest in Gallup's 23-year trend, and an increase of seven points over the past year, according to its polls
6. Nearly 1,700 journalists have been killed worldwide over the past 20 years, an average of more than 80 a year, according to an analysis published by Reporters without Borders (RSF).
7. Hundreds of current, former security personnel join US extremist group, says report
8. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that there around 18.5 million internally displaced people inside Ukraine.
9. Half of world's democracies in decline, says report
10. China economic slowdown to drag on Asia growth: IMF

B

11. Growth shocks to render more jobless, warns ILO
12. There have been at least 606 mass shootings involving five or more deaths in the US in 2022 according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit research group that tracks gun violence.
13. 100 million people forced to leave home in 2022: UN report
14. About 840 million people around the world still do not have access to electricity.

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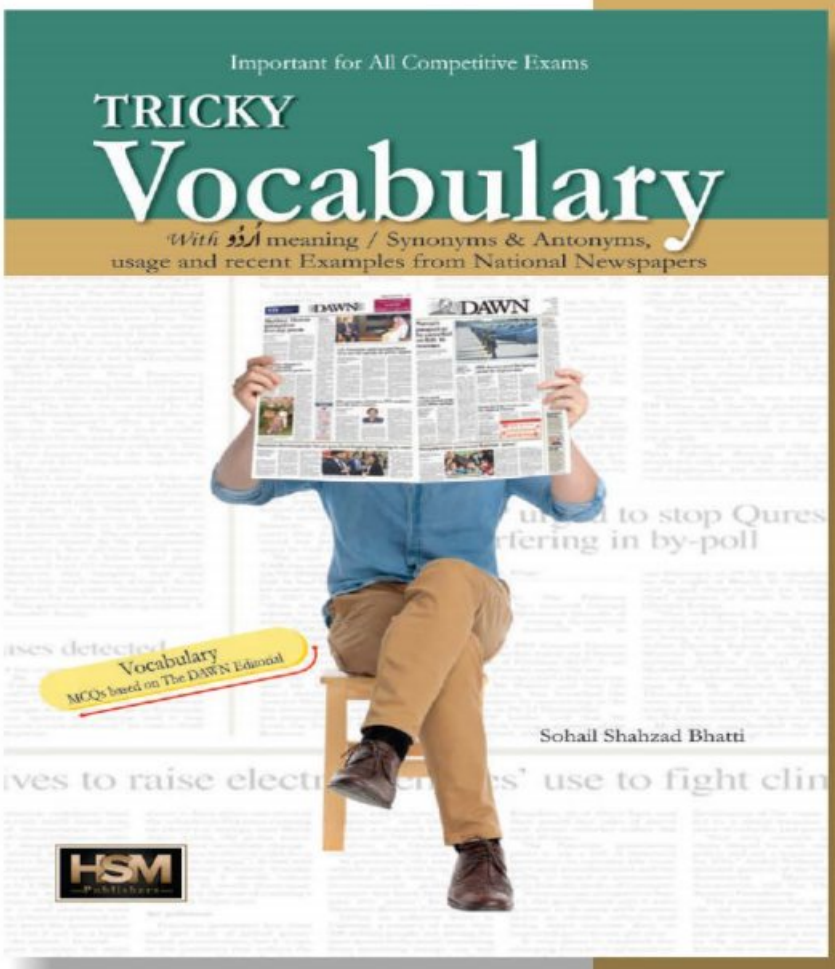

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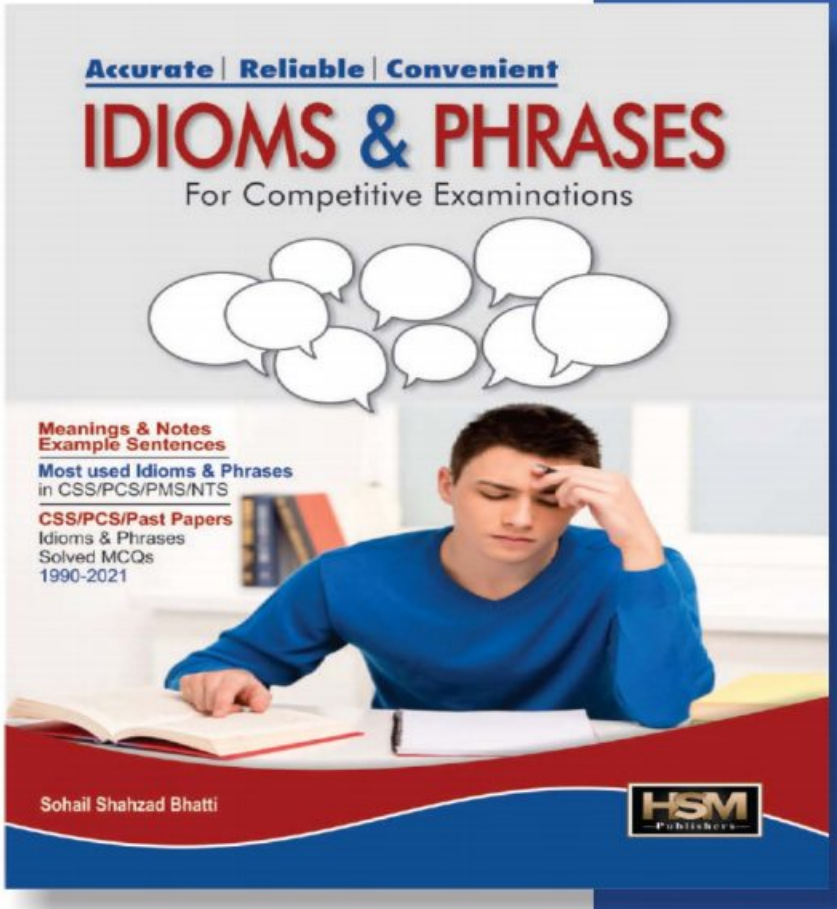

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15. Half of the world's population could be short-sighted by 2050 because of children not spending enough time outside, according to the World Economic Forum

16. 12 billion workdays lost yearly due to depression, anxiety: WHO

17. China has spent at least $8.8 billion to host the Winter Olympics 2022, says the Financial Times

18. World economy to slow, 'paying the price of war': OECD

19. Finland is the 'happiest' nation in the world according to the World Happiness Report 2022, by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

20. 50 million people living in modern slavery, says ILO

C

21. Developing states may need $310 billion for debt servicing: Unctad

22. A study of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) concluded that 14 billion barrels of crude oil was technically recoverable in the Indus basin alone.

23. The world won't reach gender equality until at least 2108 – three generations later than hoped, says Melinda French Gates, Co-Chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

24. While 10,000 steps a day is considered the ideal to improve health, as few as 3,800 steps per day has benefits, and walking at a faster pace is even better for you, according to a study published in JAMA Neurology

25. Elon Musk is currently the world's richest man, with a net worth of $219. billion, according to Forbes.

26. According to a study by the American Journal of Applied Sciences, China, the US and Malaysia have higher political stability, whereas parliamentary systems, like Pakistan, India, the Philippines and Bangladesh, have the least political stability.

27. The amount of money the European Union has given Russia for fuel since its invasion is 35 times more than what it's given Ukraine, reports BBC, since the bloc has paid Russia 35 billion euros ($38 billion) for fuel and sent Ukraine 1 billion euros ($1.09 billion) to bolster its defence.

28. Samples of lunar dust collected by Neil Armstrong during Apollo 11, the mission that first put men on the moon, sold for $504,375 at an auction, reports Forbes

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29. The United States remains the world's top oil consumer and despite the ongoing impact of the pandemic, the world's top oil producer in 2021 at 11.3 million barrels per day, according to Forbes

30. As government and commercial space ventures continue to soar, the space industry reached a record $469 billion in annual global spending in 2021 and is growing at its fastest pace in years, according to a report from the Space Foundation

D

31. More than one-in-three high-school students reported experiencing poor mental health during the pandemic through June 2021, according to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention USA survey of more than 7,700 students.

32. The Global Education Monitoring Report, 2022, released by UNESCO estimates that globally 771 million adults lacked basic literacy skills in 2020, among which 98 million were aged 15 to 24.

33. 12.3 million children need aid in Syria, says UN

34. The wage gap typically costs Asian-American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women with full-time jobs $3,000 per year, according to a report by the National Women's Law Center.

35. More than 100 million people forcibly displaced in the world, UN refugee agency says.

36. HIV, TB, malaria fight saved 50 million lives over 20 years: Global Fund

37. Estimates suggest that a cricket field requires 15,000-20,000 litres of water every day, which can meet the drinking water needs of around 2,600 people, according to Business Insider India.

38. According to the NCHR, between 2011 and 2021, more than 65 percent of sanitary workers who died while unclogging gutters belonged to minority communities.

39. Optimistic people have a higher likelihood of living past age 90 than anyone else, according to a study in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

40. The world's 500 richest people lost $1.4 trillion in 2022, a dizzying decline that marks the steepest six-month drop ever for the global billionaire class, says Bloomberg Business.

E

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41. According to the Negative Experience Index, four out of 10 adults say they experience a lot of worry and stress.

42. For every robot added per 1,000 workers in the US, wages decline by 0.42 percent and the employment-to-population ratio goes down by 0.2 percentage points, according to MIT Sloan.

43. It will take another 151 years to close the gender gap in economic participation and opportunity, according to the findings of the Global Gender Gap Index.

44. Democratic leaders must do more to counter rise of autocrats: Human Rights Watch

45. More than 80 per cent of ocean pollution originates on land and is transported to the oceans by overflow, rivers, deposition of air, and direct discharges.

46. According to an Ipsos survey, countries are becoming more insular with 56 percent of the people survey reluctant to re-open the borders to pre-pandemic levels, reports the World Economic Forum.

47. According to an article by Greenpeace, people buy 80 billion garments around the world every year.

48. There are 120 guns for every 100 Americans, according to the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey.

49. The average data breach incident costs a company $4.2m, according to an IBM survey of more than 500 companies.

50. About 77 percent of employees use social media when on the clock, many of them for up to several hours a day: Harvard Business Review

F

51. A recent Ernst & Young survey showed that 53pc of finance leaders believe that more than half of finance tasks currently handled by people could be performed by artificial intelligence in the next three years.

52. The new study shows that the emergence of the Earth's first living organisms billions of years ago may have been facilitated by strikes of lightning.

53. Managers did not know or could not remember 60pc of the work their teams do, according to a study at four Fortune 500 companies, says the Harvard Business Review.

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54. Trans women are four times more likely to experience violence than cisgender people, according to UN Women.

55. There was a 51pc increase in emergency room visits for suicide attempts by adolescent girls in the US in early 2021, as compared to the same period in 2019, says the New York Times – Gender.

56. The US and the European Union announced coordinated sanctions on Russia for the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and his arrest and detention that followed.

57. Bones belonging to a "new type of early human" previously unknown to science have been found in Israel, researchers said.

58. UN Secretary-General António Guterres urged India to end the use of pellets against children in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and stop associating children with the security forces in any way.

59. Over a billion people in the world have hypertension, says the World Economic Forum.

60. According to *The Economist*, global food prices have risen in 13 of the past 15 months and are close to their global peak in 2011.

G

61. According to the WHO, breast cancer caused around 685,000 deaths worldwide in 2020 and 2.3 million women were diagnosed with it.

62. Facebook is selective in curbing hate speech against Indian Muslims: study

63. People cut down about 15 billion trees every year for heating, construction and industrial purposes, says the World Economic Forum.

64. War crimes and crimes against humanity, including the use of child soldiers, have been committed in Libya since 2016, a United Nations investigation revealed.

65. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), inadequate management of only one per cent of masks may add up to a waste mound of 30,000kg to 40,000kg per day.

66. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg suffered an estimated loss of $6 billion as shares plummeted due to social media platform outage; according to Downdetector, which tracks online outages, globally more than 3.5 billion people were affected.

67. More than five billion people could have difficulty accessing water in 2050, the United Nations warned.

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68. About 28 percent of adult women have reached at least a secondary level of education compared to 46% of their male counterparts.

69. While fighting poverty, China has met the targets set by the United Nations under its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 10 years ahead of the deadline. In the last eight years, China's 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the standard poverty line have all been pulled out of the poverty trap.

70. The ILO's annual World Employment and Social Outlook report indicated that the planet would be 75 million jobs short at the end of 2021 compared to if the pandemic had not occurred.

H

71. Ray-Ban and Facebook have teamed up to create a pair of smart glasses starting at $299 that will allow users to capture photos and videos while staying in the moment.

72. Air pollution kills 7 million a year, says WHO.

73. "An ambassador is an honest man sent abroad to lie and intrigue for the benefit of his country," the British diplomat Sir Henry Wotton said over 400 years ago.

74. According to *The Financial Times*, over 40 percent of unhappy time for men is caused by bosses compared to roughly 30 percent for women.

75. About 80 percent of the world's ocean plastic (bottles, sachets, wrappers, etc.) flows from Asian rivers of which a third is from the Philippines, says the World Economic Forum.

76. About 60 percent of millennials now have direct reports, giving them the opportunity to drive real changes within their organizations and the teams they lead, says HBR Ascend.

77. Washington and Tehran are expected to reach a compromise to resume talks on resurrecting the Iran nuclear deal, analysts say.

78. Britain's proposed law to implement what it calls the biggest overhaul of asylum rules in decades "undermines established international refugee protection rules", the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said.

79. The Panama Canal is an artificial 82 km waterway in Panama that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean and divides North and South America.

80. Use of mobile phones while driving to be included in list of serious offences.

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I

81. The United Nations children's agency UNICEF has urged education authorities to reopen schools all around the world in 2021.

82. SpaceX sends all-civilian crew into Earth's orbit.

83. In 2019, global military expenditure reached US$ 1.9 trillion, following the largest annual increase in a decade. Only 24 NAPs include disarmament as a focus area.

84. NASA confirms Perseverance Mars rover got its first piece of rock.

85. Google sees future of work as 'hybrid'.

86. Locust swarms can travel up to 150 km a day, observes the World Economic Forum — that is roughly the distance between Karachi and Hyderabad.

87. Only one in 10 people have the right qualities to be a good leader, according to a 2015 Gallup study.

88. In United States, nearly 100,000 girls are admitted to hospitals every year due to self-harm.

89. FBI document shows links between 9/11 hijackers and Saudis.

90. Democracy means giving real voice to people, says UN chief.

J

91. According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, the per capita health spending in the United States is $9,237, while it is $3,247 in the United Kingdom and $2,000 in Canada.

92. The UN called for a moratorium on artificial intelligence systems like facial recognition technology that threaten human rights until "guardrails" are in place against violations.

93. Twenty-five years after its adoption, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty has made the world a safer place, experts say, despite never being ratified and concerns over North Korea.

94. According to new data released by the WHO, globally, one in three women have been subjected to physical or sexual violence in their lifetimes, often by someone they love or live with.

95. In 2017, Facebook's founder Mark Zuckerberg published a manifesto about the future, where he argued that connecting everyone to the internet is necessary for building an informed community.

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96. Among college graduates with young children, women want to work from home full-time almost 50 percent more than men, says the Harvard Business Review.

97. In 2020, United States spent $300 billion in foreign aid.

98. Journalists' killings declined by 20 percent in 2016-20 globally: UNESCO

99. IAEA says Iran has accelerated uranium enrichment.

100. It is taking 70 days for ocean freight to travel from its point of origin China to America, compared with 47 days last August.

K

101. The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) largest-ever allocation of $650 billion in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) became effective and can bring about $2.7 billion of additional funding for Pakistan as well.

102. As per UNESCO, half the world's students are still affected by partial or full school closures, while "over 100 million additional children will fall below the minimum proficiency level in reading as a result of the health crisis."

103. One in 100 deaths is by suicide, says the World Health Organization.

104. LED streetlights lead to decline in insect population: study

105. A study measuring water concentration in Venus's atmosphere concluded that life as we know it is not possible among the sulphuric acid droplets that make up the planet's famously cloudy skies.

106. WHO urges rich states to stop booster shots for fairness sake.

107. The Ring of Fire, also referred to as the Circum-Pacific Belt, is a path along the Pacific Ocean characterized by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes. Its length is approximately 40,000 kilometres (24,900 miles).

108. Representatives from 195 countries on August 6, 2021 approved a critical UN science report that will provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date assessment yet of the state of Earth's climate.

109. GN-z11 is a high-redshift galaxy found in the constellation Ursa Major. GN-z11 is currently the oldest and most distant known galaxy in the observable universe.

L

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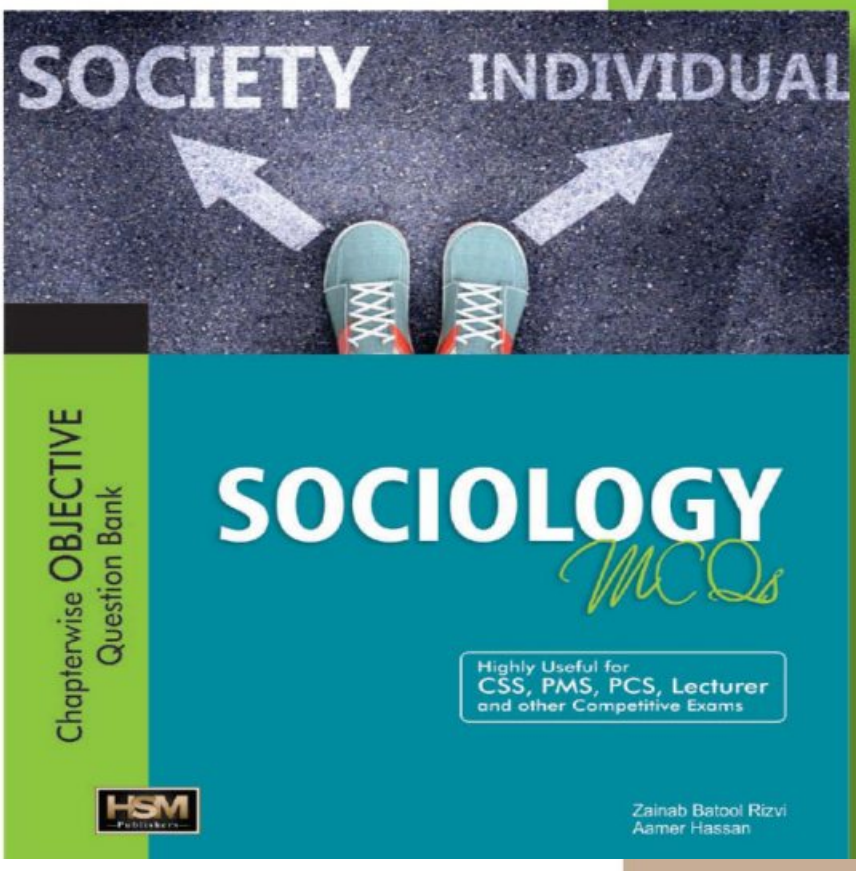

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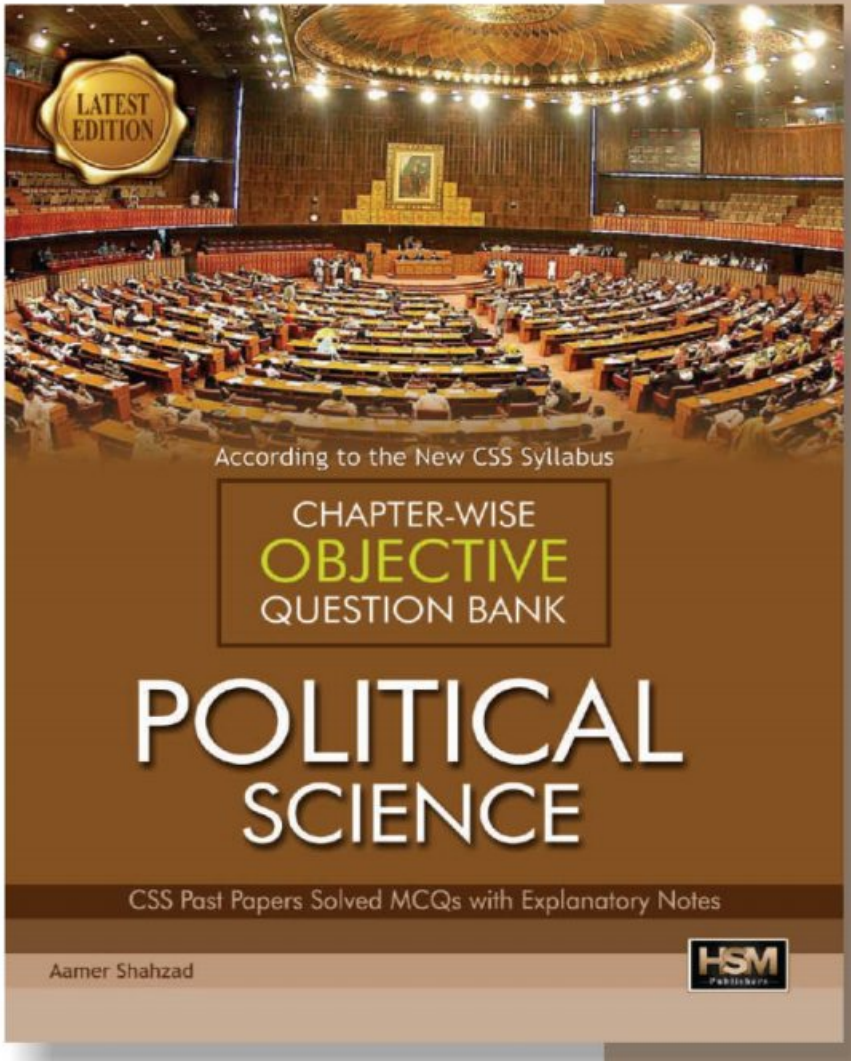

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110. Big Tech goliaths like Facebook and Amazon unveiled whopping profits, showing their dominance in lockdown lifestyles is on course to grow well beyond the pandemic.

111. Conflict and violence cost the world more than $14 trillion a year. That's the equivalent of $5 a day for every person on the planet, according to SIPRI.

112. Earth's longer days caused oxygen growth, says study.

113. Google unveiled a flagship Pixel smart phone powered by its first mobile chip to put artificial intelligence in buyers' hands.

114. The UN rights chief called for countries to dismantle systemic racism and to acknowledge and provide "reparatory justice" for past wrongs like slavery and colonialism.

115. Around two-thirds of female veterans in the British armed forces have experienced bullying, harassment or discrimination in their careers, a parliamentary report said.

116. By 2022, 54 percent of all employees will require significant upskilling, according to the World Economic Forum.

117. Groups of white women pay $5,000 (split eight ways) to attend a dinner party at which they're pushed to confront their deeply rooted racism, narrates *The Sunday Times*.

118. Strategic depth is a term in military literature that broadly refers to the distances between the front lines or battle sectors and the combatants' industrial core areas, capital cities, heartlands, and other key centres of population or military production.

119. EU court allows companies to ban headscarves under certain 'conditions'.

120. The Democratic-led House, with the backing of President Joe Biden, passed legislation to repeal the 2002 authorisation for use of military force in Iraq.

M

121. The European Union and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) signed an agreement to launch the 'Balochistan Education Support' (BES), a five-year education development programme for which the EU will provide 17.4 million euros (Rs. 3.27 billion).

122. With some 225 million people, Pakistan has the world's fifth largest population. With a national growth rate of around 2 percent, at least 4.4 million people are added to the existing numbers every year.

123. A new study by Standard Chartered reveals that 78 percent of multinational companies (MNCs) will remove suppliers that endanger their carbon transition plan by 2025.

124. Rainwater harvesting (RWH) is the collection and storage of rain, rather than allowing it to run off. Rainwater is collected from a roof-like surface and

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redirected to a tank, cistern, deep pit, aquifer, or a reservoir with percolation, so that it seeps down and restores the ground water.

125. The UN refugee agency UNHCR revealed that almost one million children were born as refugees between 2018 and 2020.

126. The Great Barrier Reef should be added to a list of "in danger" World Heritage Sites, a UN committee recommended.

127. The Abraham Accords are a joint statement between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States, reached on August 13, 2020. Subsequently, the term was used to refer collectively to agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, respectively.

128. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. The IAEA was established as an autonomous organization on July 29, 1957.

129. The United States State Department has clarified that there has been no change in America's Kashmir policy and Washington still considers both Jammu and Kashmir as a territory disputed between India and Pakistan.

130. The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. The ICC was established by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998, and it began sittings on July 1, 2002, after 60 countries had ratified the Rome Statute.

N

131. According to United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), world loses $2.6 trillion to corruption annually.

132. Malacca Dilemma is a word coined in 2003, by the then Chinese President Hu Jintao. It is a term that represents the potential factors that could hinder China's economic development through choking oil imports.

133. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 13 countries. Founded on September 14, 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members, it has since 1965 been headquartered in Vienna, Austria, although Austria is not an OPEC member-state.

134. According to a 2020 Lancet study, drug-resistant strains of bacterial infections claim at least 700,000 lives per year around the world. This death rate is projected to rise to 10 million patients per year by 2050 at an estimated cost of $100tr to the world economy.

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135. The Charter of the United Nations was drafted and approved in 1945. Its stated objectives are to prevent war, forced occupation, and promote global justice.

136. The key elements of neoliberal policies – free market, minimal state intervention and flexible labour – hinge on a crucial principle which, according to Noam Chomsky, is "undermining mechanisms of social solidarity and mutual support and popular engagement in determining policy."

137. The UN's nuclear watchdog in Vienna reported that Iran has started producing uranium metal in defiance of a 2015 deal with world powers on which ex-US president Donald Trump sensationally reneged in 2018.

138. Scientists have described a drug which hijacks the body's appetite system as a potential "game changer" in treating obesity after research showed it could cut body weight by up to 20 percent.

139. The Treaty on Open Skies establishes a programme of unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of its participants. The treaty is designed to enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving all participants, regardless of size, a direct role in gathering information about military forces and activities of concern to them. It entered into force on January 1, 2002, and currently has 31 states-parties.

140. President Joe Biden declared the "transatlantic alliance is back" seeking to re-establish the United States as leader of the West against what he called a global assault on democracy.

O

141. The broad objectives of the civil services reform have been listed here: 1. Transparent and merit-based recruitment with due regional representation. 2. Performance-based promotions and compulsory training at all requisite levels. 3. Equal opportunities for career advancement. 4. Equality among cadres and non-cadres of all public servants. 5. Guarantees of a living wage and a decent retirement package. 6. Security of tenure for specified periods. 7. Separate cadres of regular civil services and contractual staff at all levels. 8. Establishing an All-Pakistan National Executive Service for senior management posts. 9. Creation of four specialized cadres under the NES (for economic management, technical, social sector management and general management).

142. Over 51 percent of voters backed the *burqa*-ban in Switzerland, with a campaign spearheaded by a rightist party in the alpine nation.

143. The US-based think-tank Freedom House released its annual report ranking countries based on their fulfilment of and support for democratic principles such as freedom of speech, belief, thought, access to government institutions and political participation. One of the surprises in this year's report was that

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India, ranked as a free country until now, was demoted to 111th place among 162 countries and was now only "partly free".

144. A central business district (CBD) is the commercial and business centre of a city. It contains commercial space and offices. In larger cities, it is often synonymous with the city's "financial district". Some of the key characteristics of CBDs include, high concentration of offices, banks, financial institutions, high density and high-rise buildings and high land values.

145. Under National Security Dialogue, Pakistan plans to focus on its own issues and rising internal non-traditional threats. Included in the agenda were climate change, water security, food security and a host of other challenges.

146. About 52 percent of voluntary exiting employees say their managers or organization could have done something to prevent them from leaving their jobs, reports a Gallup survey.

147. In 2020, hate crimes against Asian-Americans went up by 150 percent with as many as 3,000 violent incidents throughout the US, says Bloomberg Opinion.

148. Saudi Vision 2030 is a strategic framework to reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil, diversify its economy, and develop public service sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, recreation, and tourism.

149. In China, peer-reviewed studies reveal a 300 percent increase in violence against women. In Lebanon, there has been a 45 percent increase in violence against women. In the United Kingdom, violence against women has doubled from the 10-year average. Similar increases in violence have also been reported in Germany and Tunisia. Next door in India, the onset of the pandemic has led to at least a 21 percent increase in violence against women.

150. The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focuses on coordinated action that considers the impact of biodiversity loss on other socio-economic sectors.

P

151. A global assessment by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, covering the period between the 1970s and 2050, revealed that in the last 50 years, the pace of change has been unprecedented. More than 85 percent wetlands have been lost, while 75 percent land and 66 percent oceans have been significantly altered. Consequently, up to a million species of animals and plants face extinction, leading scientists to fear a sixth mass extinction.

152. The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report 2020 lists biodiversity loss as one of the top four global risks in likelihood and impact.

153. More twins — one in every 42 children born — are coming into the world than ever before, according to new research citing the rapid rise in medically assisted reproduction as a key factor.

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154. The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all". The SDGs were set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030.

155. Organizations with gender diversity among their managers experience substantial increases in innovation revenue when the proportion of female managers reaches more than 20 percent, indicates Gallup research.

156. Reports have warned that rainforest cover equal to a football field is lost every six seconds; two-thirds of the world's original rainforest cover has already been destroyed, with 34 percent of old tropical forests having been cleared to make way for agricultural practices. Another 30 percent have been degraded to a dangerous extent. In fact, the total loss of rainforest cover between 2002 and 2019 was greater than the area of France.

157. Guinness World Records, known from its inception in 1955 until 1999 as The Guinness Book of Records and in previous United States editions as The Guinness Book of World Records, is a reference book published annually, listing world records both of human achievements and the extremes of the natural world.

158. The vicious circle of poverty is a result of the various vicious circles which were on the sides of supply of and demand for capital. As a result, capital formation remains low productivity and low real incomes.

159. According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem." European Commission defines it as "All economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts.

160. The World Health Organization blasted the growing gap between the number of coronavirus vaccines administered in rich and poor countries, branding the inequity a global "moral outrage".

Q

161. The largest asteroid to pass by Earth this year has made its closest approach, posing no threat of a cataclysmic collision but giving astronomers a rare chance to study a rock formed during the beginning of our solar system.

162. Global economists believe that for growth in developing countries, national governments must: (i) develop fundamental capabilities in the shape of human capital and institutions, and (ii) undertake a structural transformation (agriculture to industrialization).

163. Premature deaths caused by fine particle air pollution have fallen 10 percent annually across Europe, but the invisible killer still accounts for 307,000 premature deaths a year, the European Environment Agency.

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164. An international study conducted by TikTok revealed that 31 percent of teens exposed to hoaxes online had experienced a negative impact, with 63 percent saying it was affecting their mental health.

165. Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon rainforest rose by almost 22 percent in one year, the highest level in 15 years, according to figures that cast doubt on promises by President Jair Bolsonaro's government to reverse the trend with "forceful" action.

166. Paris aims to be a 100 percent cyclable city within four years by adding 80km of new cycle paths by 2026 and 130,000 new parking spots for bikes, says the World Economic Forum.

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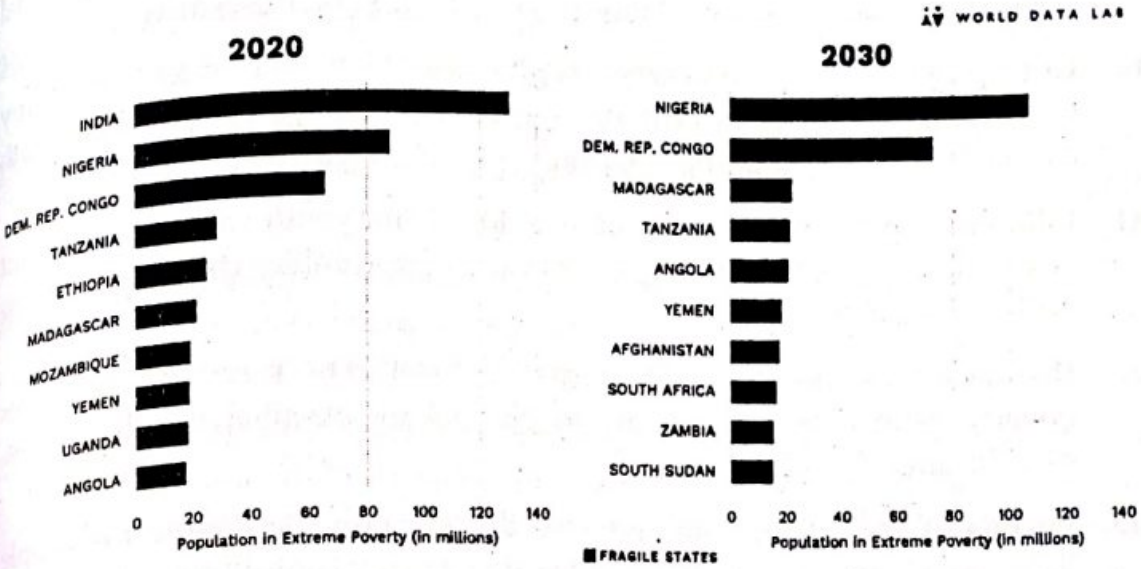
GLOBAL POVERTY



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1. **Global Poverty Rate:** Approximately 8.9% of the world's population, or about 689 million people, live on less than $1.90 a day, the international poverty line. #PovertyRate
2. **Extreme Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa:** Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest concentration of extreme poverty, with 40% of the population living below the international poverty line. #SubSaharanAfrica
3. **COVID-19 Impact:** The COVID-19 pandemic pushed an additional 97 million people into extreme poverty in 2020, and recovery has been slow. #COVIDImpact
4. **Child Poverty:** Over 356 million children globally live in extreme poverty, representing nearly one in six children. #ChildPoverty
5. **Income Inequality:** The richest 10% of the world's population earns over 50% of global income, while the poorest 50% earn only 8.5%. #IncomeInequality
6. **Multidimensional Poverty:** About 1.3 billion people experience multidimensional poverty, which includes deprivations in health, education, and standard of living. #MultidimensionalPoverty
7. **Rural vs. Urban Poverty:** Rural areas account for 80% of people living in extreme poverty, highlighting the rural-urban divide. #RuralPoverty

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8. **Poverty Among Women:** Women are more likely to live in poverty than men, especially in developing countries, due to gender inequality and limited access to resources. #GenderPovertyGap

9. **Food Insecurity:** Approximately 828 million people, or 10.5% of the global population, faced severe food insecurity in 2023. #FoodInsecurity

10. **Unemployment and Poverty:** High unemployment rates in many developing countries contribute significantly to poverty, with youth unemployment being particularly high. #Unemployment

11. **Education and Poverty:** 244 million children and youth worldwide are out of school, significantly limiting their future opportunities to escape poverty. #EducationCrisis

12. **Healthcare Access:** Lack of access to healthcare services exacerbates poverty, with over 400 million people lacking essential health services. #Healthcare

13. **Poverty in South Asia:** South Asia has the second-highest number of people living in extreme poverty, with India being a major contributor. #SouthAsia

14. **Climate Change Impact:** Climate change is projected to push an additional 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030 due to natural disasters and resource scarcity. #ClimateChange

15. **Water Scarcity:** 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services, affecting their health and economic opportunities. #WaterScarcity

16. **Sanitation:** 4.2 billion people live without safely managed sanitation services, increasing the risk of disease and impacting quality of life. #Sanitation

17. **Refugees and Displacement:** There are over 100 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, many of whom live in poverty. #Refugees

18. **Access to Electricity:** 759 million people worldwide lack access to electricity, limiting their economic opportunities and quality of life. #ElectricityAccess

19. **Poverty Reduction:** Despite challenges, global poverty has decreased by 50% since 1990, showing progress in poverty alleviation efforts. #PovertyReduction

20. **Social Protection Programmes:** Expanding social protection programmes, such as cash transfers, can significantly reduce poverty and improve well-being. #SocialProtection

21. **Digital Divide:** 2.9 billion people remain offline, with limited access to the internet, exacerbating educational and economic inequalities. #DigitalDivide

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22. **Urban Slums:** Over 1 billion people live in urban slums, facing inadequate housing and limited access to basic services. #UrbanPoverty
23. **Health Expenditures:** Out-of-pocket health expenditures push approximately 100 million people into poverty each year. #HealthCosts
24. **Income Mobility:** Upward income mobility is limited in many developing countries, trapping generations in poverty. #IncomeMobility
25. **Global Hunger:** The number of people experiencing hunger has increased by 150 million since 2019, primarily due to conflicts, climate change, and economic shocks. #GlobalHunger
26. **Poverty among Indigenous Peoples:** Indigenous peoples are disproportionately affected by poverty, with many facing systemic discrimination and exclusion. #IndigenousPoverty
27. **Microfinance:** Microfinance institutions have provided financial services to over 140 million low-income individuals, helping to alleviate poverty. #Microfinance
28. **Remittances:** Global remittances reached $650 billion in 2023, providing a crucial lifeline for many households in developing countries. #Remittances
29. **Elderly Poverty:** The elderly population in developing countries is particularly vulnerable to poverty due to inadequate pension systems. #ElderlyPoverty
30. **SDG Goals:** The UN's Sustainable Development Goals aim to end poverty in all its forms by 2030, but significant challenges remain. #SDGs
31. 25 nations reduce poverty by 50pc in 15 years: UNDP
32. Hunger has stopped rising, but remains elevated: UN
33. Record 110 million people now forcibly displaced: UN
34. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic and the current cost-of-living crisis are accounted for, the data shows that 1.2 billion people in 111 developing countries live in acute multidimensional poverty. This is nearly double the number who are seen as poor when poverty is defined as living on less than $1.90 per day.
35. Worldwide, around 47 million people are facing a shortage of wheat and other supplies.
36. Approximately $600 billion worth of food is lost during or just after harvest globally, according to McKinsey & Company.
37. Every day in 2020, approximately 800 women died from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth – meaning that a woman dies around every two minutes according to the World Health Organization

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38. In 2022, every 28 minutes, a child is getting married, 98 percent of which are girls, mostly in regions with a high prevalence of extreme poverty in conflict, reports the Middle East Eye.

B

39. Half of Asia-Pacific workforce surviving on $5.5 per day.

40. The Global Hunger Index 2022 stated that Central Africa faced "alarming" and South Asia "serious" hunger with scores of 43 and 24.7 GHI, respectively. Central Africa was ranked 120, while Pakistan, India and Afghanistan were ranked 99, 107 and 109, respectively, out of 116 countries.

41. According to the Global Network's 2022 Global Report on Food Crisis, clashes and wars remain significant drivers of food insecurity worldwide.

42. According to Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates, over one billion tonnes of food is lost and wasted annually across the world, which accounts for about 33 per cent of the total food produced globally.

43. Children and youth account for two-thirds of the world's poor, and women represent a majority in most regions.

44. Extreme poverty is increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. About 40 percent of the region's people live on less than $1.90 a day.

45. Joblessness jumped in 2018-19: labour survey

46. Out of the 1.3 billion people that live in multidimensional poverty in developing countries, a staggering one in three are children, says the United Nations Development Programme.

47. The WFP said that it needed as much as $220m per month to help stave off death due to hunger.

48. Extreme poverty rates nearly doubled in the Middle East and North Africa between 2015 and 2018, from 3.8 percent to 7.2 percent, mostly because of crises in Syria and Yemen.

C

49. Although countries impacted by fragility, crises, and violence are home to about 10 percent of the world's population, they account for more than 40 percent of people living in extreme poverty. By 2030, an estimated 67 percent of the world's poor will live in fragile contexts.

50. About 70 percent of people older than 15 who live in extreme poverty have no schooling or only some basic education.

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51. The UNHCR says over 82 million people are displaced across the world.

52. The anti-poverty organization Oxfam says 11 people die of hunger each minute and that the number facing famine-like conditions around the globe has increased six times over the last year.

53. UN agencies issued stark warnings that 400,000 children risk death in 2021 from lack of food due to ongoing war in Yemen.

54. As per 2019 figures, 690 million people were affected by hunger around the world.

55. "Food scarcity is one of the biggest challenges of the future. Global food insecurity is the leading threat in the world. More than 820 million people in the world were hungry in 2018. Biotechnology is providing the building blocks for a sustainable future and food security."

56. 1.3 billion people in 107 developing countries, which account for 22 percent of the world's population, live in multidimensional poverty. About 84.3 percent of multi-dimensionally poor live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

57. 644 million children are experiencing multidimensional poverty.

58. About 9.2 percent of the world, or 689 million people, live in extreme poverty on less than $1.90 a day, according to the World Bank.

D

59. In the United States, 10.5 percent of the population – 34 million people – live in poverty as of 2019. For an individual in the US, the poverty line is $12,880 a year, or about $35.28 per day.

60. In 2019, acute hunger increased to 135 million people, of which 60 percent live in conflict/insecurity countries.

61. Yemen remained the world's worst food crisis. An estimated 15.9 million people or more than half (53 percent) of Yemen's population were in crisis or worse situation.

62. The UN's food agency reported the number of people on the edge of famine in 43 countries had risen to 45 million, as acute hunger spikes around the world.

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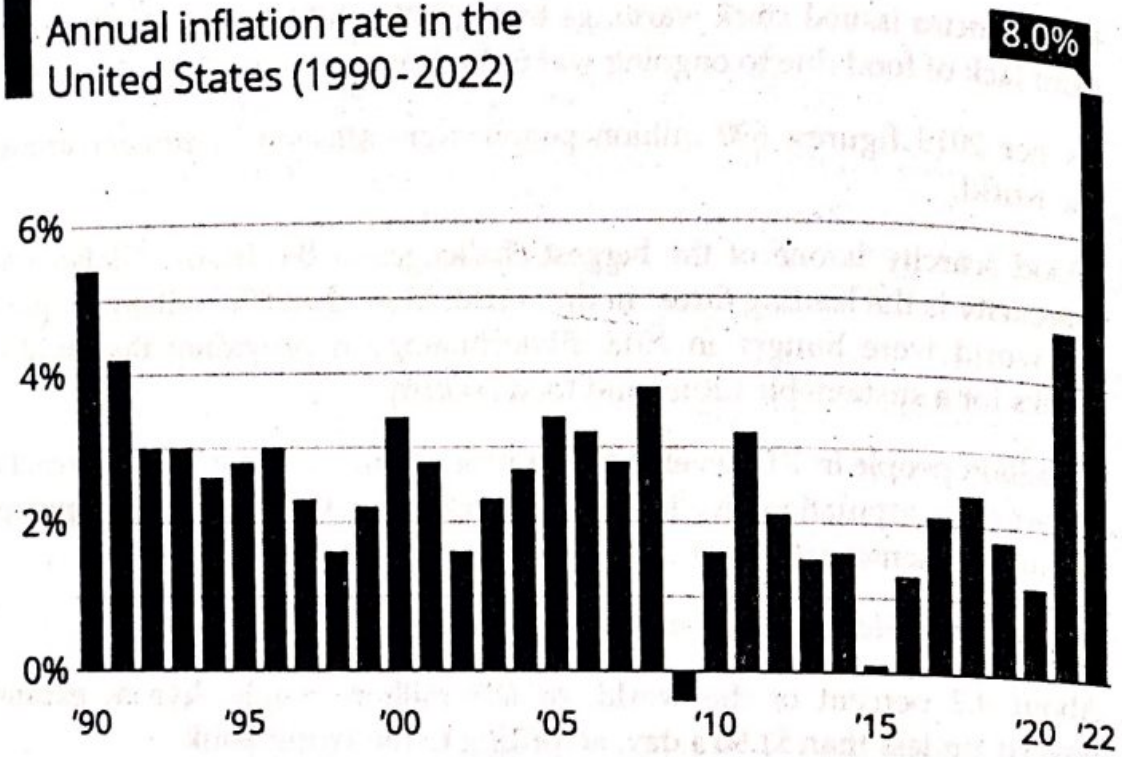
2022 Inflation Tops Previous Decades

Annual inflation rate in the United States (1990-2022)



Urban consumers, average of monthly, year-over-year rates
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

statista

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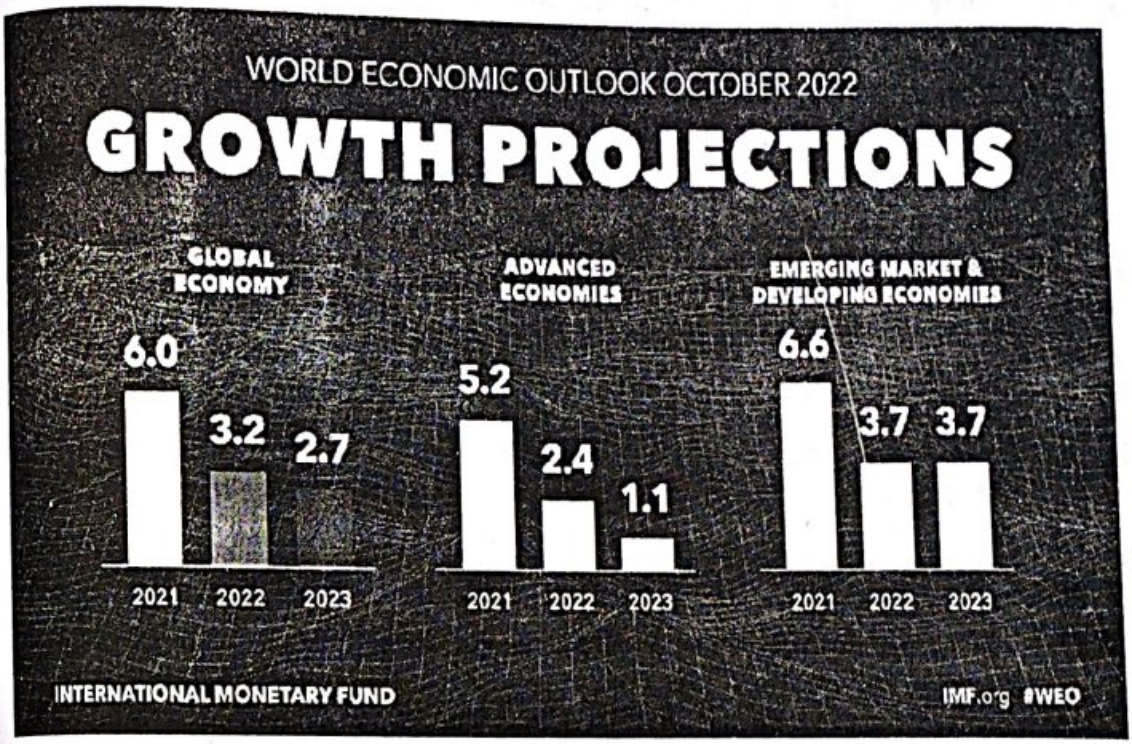
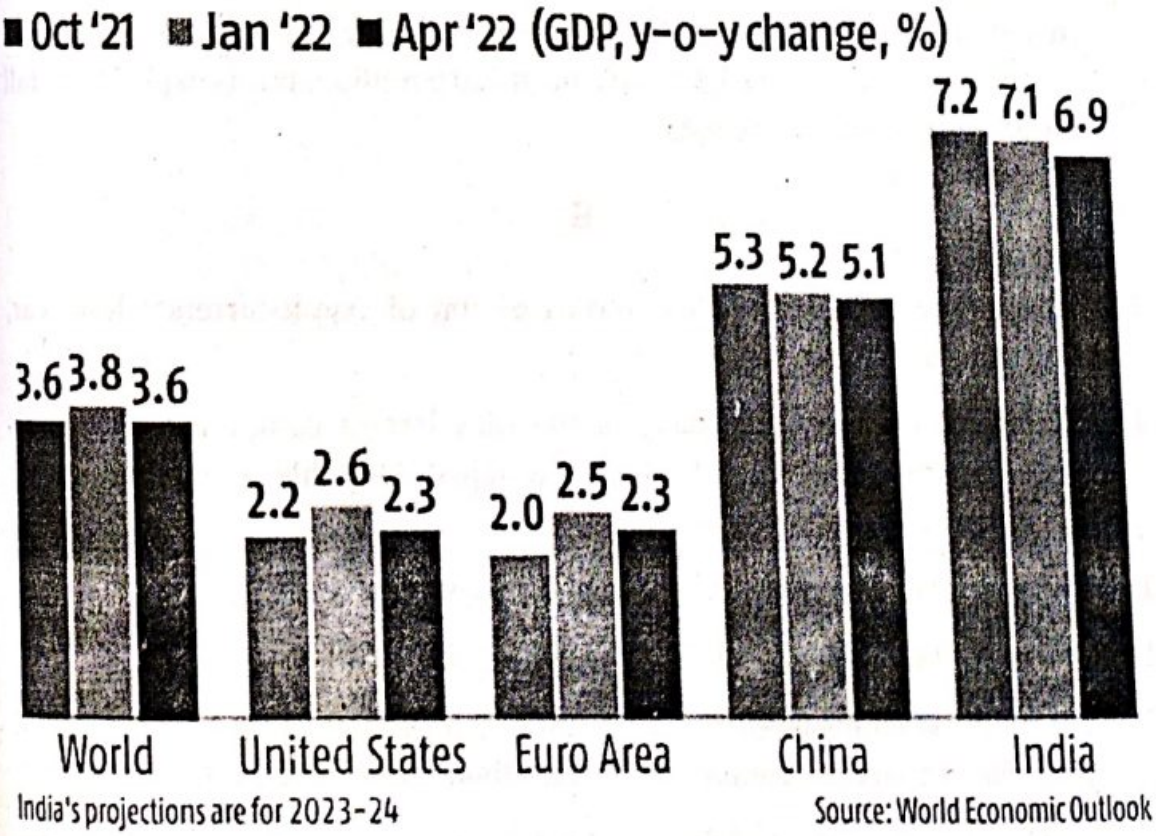
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY



5: IMF's 2023 PROJECTIONS ARE EVEN LOWER



India's projections are for 2023-24

Source: World Economic Outlook

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A

1. Global public debt surges to record $92tr: UN report
2. The richest 10pc of the world control a whopping 76pc of the world's wealth.
3. Pension system can increase GDP in developing world: ILO
4. The IMF has approved some $300bn in financing to 96 countries since the start of the pandemic, according to the lender of the last resort
5. A steady flow of financial aid has pushed up Kyiv's currency reserves to a record $41.7b, according to the Financial Times
6. Global growth seen slipping below 3pc in 2023: Report
7. China's economy expanded at its fastest pace for 10 years in 2021, according to an AFP poll of analysts.
8. According to the 2022 report, the world's least unequal place is Western Europe and the world's most unequal region is the Middle East.
9. Oxfam's annual inequality report estimates that 21,000 people are dying every day owing to inequality – that is one death every four seconds.
10. Between 2019 and 2020, the number of unemployed people worldwide increased from 187.3 million to 220.3 million, the biggest annual increase in unemployment in this provided time period. In 2021, the number of people unemployed increased slightly to almost 220.5 million, but is expected to fall to 205 million in 2022. Statista

B

11. North Korean hackers stole a record $1.7bn of cryptocurrency last year, according to The Economist
12. Even after the layoffs at many of the US's largest companies, America's unemployment rates are historically low at just 3.4pc this January, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics
13. IMF predicts global economy to expand 5.9 percent in 2022.
14. UN warns hunger is expected to rise in 23 global hotspots.
15. The global scientific output could be more than 40 percent higher if talented youth had equal opportunities to nurture their abilities, says the IMF.
16. In 2020, 8.8 percent of global working hours were lost compared to the fourth quarter of 2019 – the equivalent of 255 million full-time jobs.

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17. Every 100,000 trained professionals can bring in an additional $2-3 billion in remittances per year.

18. As for global food prices, the Food and Agriculture Organization's food price index was up 32.9 percent in August 2021 compared to August 2020.

19. Conflict and violence cost the world more than $14 trillion a year. That's the equivalent of $5 a day for every person on the planet, according to SIPRI.

20. About $3tr in assets are managed in Singapore, with more than 76 percent of the total coming from overseas, says Bloomberg BusinessWeek.

C

21. China dethroned the US in 2020 to become Europe's top trading partner for the first time, data from the European statistic office has shown.

22. The global debt hit a record level of $281tr by the end of 2020, or more than 355 percent of global GDP and there is even more borrowing up ahead, states Bloomberg Business.

23. Companies around the world are expected to spend $97.9 billion on artificial intelligence by the end of 2023, states research by Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management.

24. The lower GDP growth cost approximately 0.9 to 1.6 million jobs a year, on average, between 2007 and 2018. At the lower-bound, this amounts to a cumulative 10.9 million jobs that could have been saved and/or created during the 12-year period.

25. International Labour Organization indicates that reducing the gender gap by just 25 percent (a target G20 leaders committed to in 2014 – "25 by 25") would increase global GDP by $5.8 trillion by 2025.

26. The ILO's annual World Employment and Social Outlook report indicated that the planet would be 75 million jobs short at the end of this year compared to if the pandemic had not occurred.

27. According to the data released by the Chinese state, 100 million people had now been lifted out of extreme poverty in China. This means that no one in China now lives under $1.69 a day.

28. The FDI inflows are crucial for technology transfer, improvement in business management practices, competition, exports, employment and deeper integration with the world economy. According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2020, FDI stock declined sharply from $40.8 billion to $34.8 billion in two years by 2019, entailing a hefty net outflow of $6 billion.

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29. In 2020, the inflation rate worldwide amounted to approximately 3.2 percent compared to the previous year. Statista

30. There are 32 "sustainable development unicorns" or companies developing Global Goals-related markets with market caps of more than US$1 billion. Let's go angel investors allocate some capital to create some sustainable development unicorns.

D

31. Between 1988 and 2008, the poorest third of humanity saw their incomes rise by 40-70 percent, with those of the middle third rising by 80 percent.

32. The proportion of people in extreme poverty declined by more than half between 1990 and 2015, as did the number of children dying before the age of five.

33. Over the past 50 years, while the world population has almost tripled to more than 7 billion, global GDP has expanded six-fold.

34. In 2019, $30tr of assets invested worldwide relied in some way on information related to companies' environmental, social and governance practices, estimates MIT Sloan School of Management.

35. More than 124 million children and young people are lacking access to schools.

36. Income inequality in OECD countries is at its highest level for 30 years.

37. 263 million children and young people around the world are out of school.

38. According to the IMF, the cost of bribery is roughly 2 percent of global GDP (roughly $1.56 Trillion).

39. The 60 fastest-growing sustainable market opportunities together could generate business revenues and savings worth more than US$12 trillion by 2030.

40. These 60 Global Goals opportunities could together create more than 380 million new jobs by 2030.

E

41. There are 800 million undernourished people and 2 billion suffering from micronutrient deficiencies.

42. Reducing food waste in the value chain could be worth US$155-405 billion a year by 2030.

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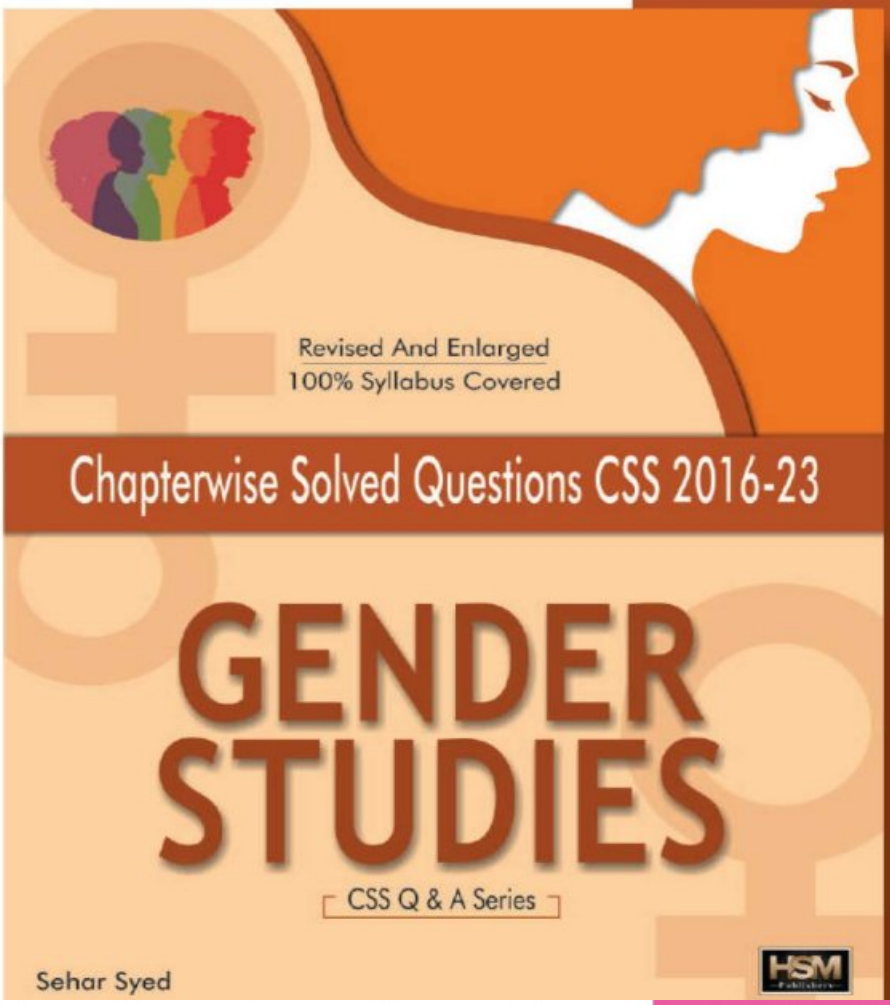

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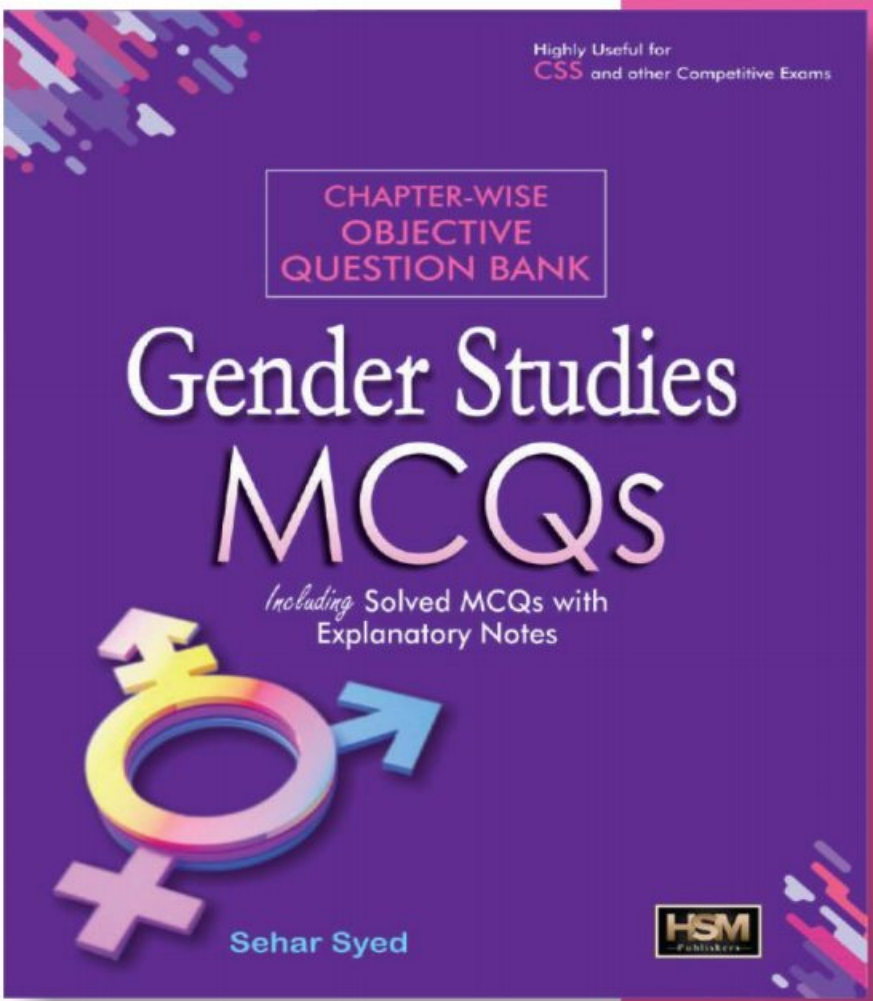

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43. Deforestation and forest degradation accounts for 17 percent of global emissions, more than transport.

44. Forest ecosystem services could generate US$140-365 billion a year by 2030.

45. The world's-poorest people spend as much as 60 percent of their household income on food – yet undernutrition and malnutrition remain widespread. Business can address this challenge by investing in supply chains and food innovation to give those on very low incomes access to food products that are more nutritious.

46. The low-income food markets could see income of US$155-265 billion a year by 2030. Social Innovators can address this challenge by investing in supply chains and food innovation.

47. By 2030, 60 percent of the world's population will live in cities.

48. Up to 440 million urban households could be living in sub-standard housing by 2025 and in cities, 10-15 percent of building material is wasted during construction.

49. The affordable housing market could be around US$650-1,080 billion a year by 2030.

50. The building sector accounts for around one-third of the total final energy consumption across the world and more than half of electricity demand.

F

51. The Energy efficiency – buildings market could be around US$555-770 billion a year by 2030.

52. Market research predicts annual sales of battery-powered electric vehicles and hybrids will grow from about 2.3 million units in 2014 to 11.5 million by 2022, or 11 percent of the global market.

53. The International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) map scenario forecasts that, including hydropower, renewables' share of generation worldwide could increase to 45 percent by 2030.

54. Out-of-pocket healthcare payments push around 5 percent of households in low-income countries below the poverty line each year.

55. The remote patient monitoring market could reach US$300-440 billion by 2030. Using sensors that read the vital signs of patients at home can alert nurses and doctors cost effectively to problems before they worsen. Emerging technologies include wearable patches that can diagnose heart conditions, sensors that monitor asthma medication intake and detect poor air quality, and glucose monitors that send diabetics' data straight to their smartphones.

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56. Telehealth market could reach US$130-320 billion by 2030. Basic mobile internet technologies are already extending access to consultation and diagnosis to remote patients around the world.
57. Millennials are over 5x more likely to stay at a company where they feel a strong purpose.
58. A 2015 survey of 7,800 future business leaders from 29 countries found that 75 percent think businesses are focused on their own agendas rather than improving society, and over 50 percent would take a pay cut to find work that matches their values.
59. Nearly 20 billion devices are now connected to the internet.
60. Ivory Coast produces 35 percent of the world's cocoa. It also has 1.2 million child labourers in its workforce, almost all of them working in cocoa production.

G

61. About 55 percent of children working in the Pakistan's agriculture are subject to forced labour.
62. The total estimated infrastructure investment needs across the global economy amount to US$90 trillion over the next 15 years, or approximately US$6 trillion per year.
63. Today 20-40 million workers are trapped in forms of modern slavery.
64. Between 1988 and 2008, the poorest third of humanity saw their incomes rise by 40-70 percent, with those of the middle third rising by 80 percent.
65. Over 750 million people still lived in extreme poverty.
66. 168 million children are involved in child labour, half of whom are in hazardous work.
67. Global unemployment today stands at 5.8 percent, or 200 million people worldwide.

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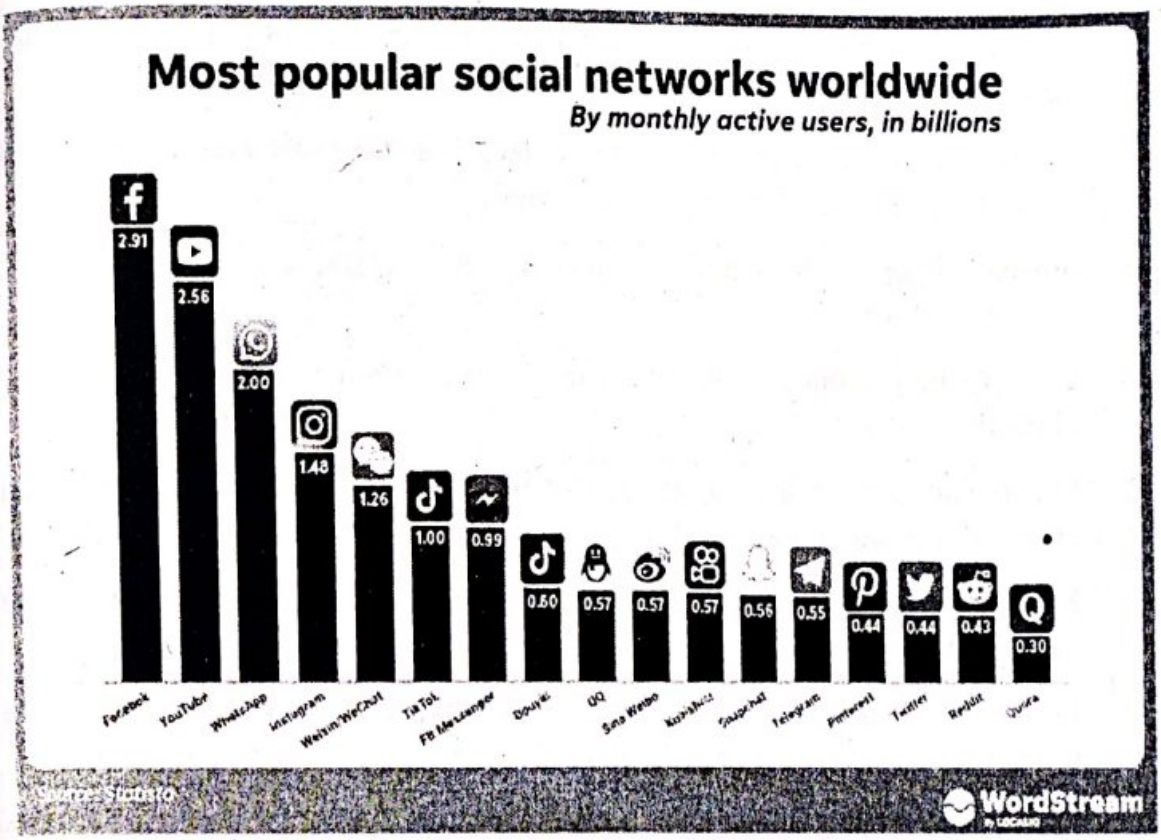
SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS



- **User Base:** Over 4.9 billion people use social media worldwide. #GlobalReach
- **Daily Usage:** The average user spends 2 hours and 31 minutes on social media daily. #TimeSpent
- **Mobile Dominance:** 99% of social media users access platforms via mobile devices. #MobileFirst
- **Top Platform:** Facebook remains the most-used social media platform with 2.9 billion active users. #Facebook
- **Video Content:** Videos generate 82% of all internet traffic. #VideoMarketing
- **Instagram Growth:** Instagram has over 2 billion monthly active users. #Instagram
- **TikTok Popularity:** TikTok surpassed 1 billion users, making it one of the fastest-growing platforms. #TikTok
- **Influencer Market:** The influencer marketing industry is valued at $21.1 billion. #InfluencerMarketing
- **Ad Revenue:** Social media ad spending is projected to reach $226 billion. #AdRevenue

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- **E-commerce:** 71% of small businesses use social media to promote their products. #Ecommerce
- **Customer Engagement:** 54% of users prefer social media for customer service inquiries. #CustomerService
- **Algorithm Changes:** Platforms like Instagram and Facebook continuously update algorithms to prioritize user experience. #Algorithm
- **Content Consumption:** Short-form videos are the most engaging type of content on social media. #ContentMarketing
- **Stories Usage:** 500 million people use Instagram Stories daily. #InstagramStories
- **User Demographics:** 67% of Gen Z users prefer TikTok over other platforms. #GenZ
- **Social Shopping:** Social commerce sales are expected to reach $1.2 trillion by 2025. #SocialCommerce
- **Privacy Concerns:** 81% of users are concerned about how companies use their data. #Privacy
- **Live Streaming:** Live streaming on platforms like Twitch and YouTube continues to grow in popularity. #LiveStreaming
- **Brand Interaction:** 90% of users follow at least one brand on social media. #BrandLoyalty
- **Engagement Rate:** Instagram has the highest engagement rate among social media platforms. #Engagement
- **User Growth:** Social media platforms see an annual user growth rate of 3.2%. #UserGrowth
- **Social Media Ads:** Video ads have a 49% higher engagement rate than static ads. #VideoAds
- **New Platforms:** Emerging platforms like Clubhouse and BeReal are gaining traction. #NewPlatforms
- **Mental Health:** 64% of users believe social media negatively impacts their mental health. #MentalHealth
- **Authenticity:** Authentic content resonates more with users, leading to higher engagement rates. #Authenticity
- **AR Filters:** Augmented reality filters on platforms like Snapchat and Instagram are increasingly popular. #AR
- **User-generated Content:** User-generated content increases brand engagement by 28%. #UGC

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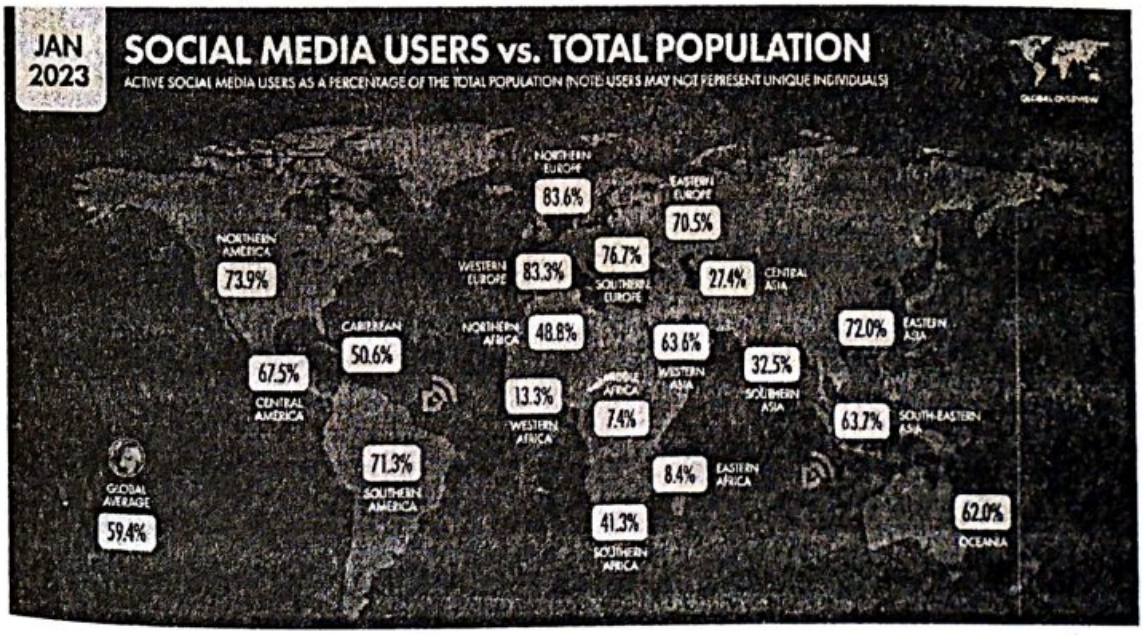
- **Hashtags:** Posts with hashtags see a 12.6% increase in engagement. #Hashtags
- Social Listening: Brands use social listening tools to monitor and respond to user feedback. #SocialListening
- Virtual Events: Virtual events on platforms like LinkedIn and Facebook have surged post-pandemic. #VirtualEvents
- In 2023, there are estimated to be 4.89 billion total social media users worldwide.
- For context, as of 2023, total worldwide population is 8 billion.
- The internet has 4.54 billion users.
- There are 3.8 billion active social media users.
- On average, people have 7.6 social media accounts.
- The average daily time spent on social is 142 minutes a day.
- 91 percent of retail brands use 2 or more social media channels.
- 81 percent of all small and medium businesses use some kind of social platform.
- Social media users grew by 328 million between October 2018 and October 2019.
- That works out at 10 new social media users per second.
- Facebook Messenger and Whatsapp handle 60 billion messages a day.
- When asked 81 percent of teenagers felt social media has a positive effect on their lives.
- Another study found the effect of social media on teenagers was 'trivial'.



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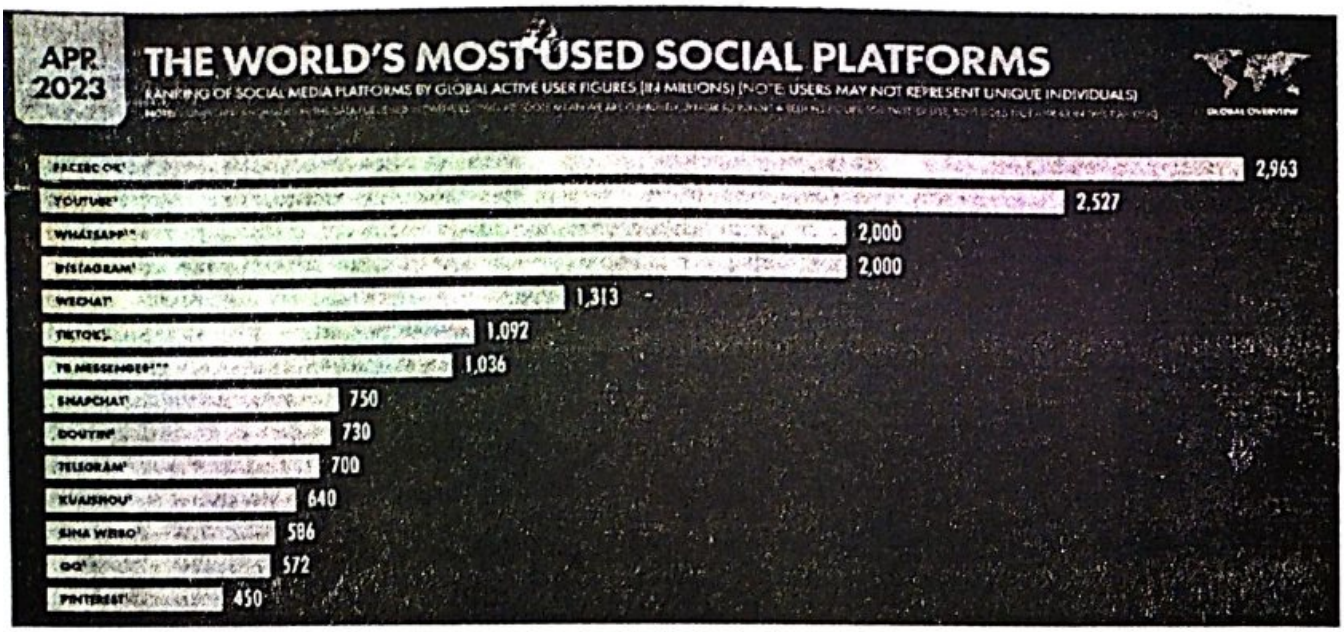

SOCIAL MEDIA BUSINESS STATISTICS

- In 2019, social network advertising revenue in the United States amounted to US $36.14 billion. This figure has surpassed US $50 billion at the end of 2021.
- 38 percent of organizations plan to spend more than 20 percent of their total advertising budgets on social media channels in 2015, up from 13 percent in 2020.

- Only 20 Fortune 500 companies actually engage with their customers on Facebook, while 83 percent have a presence on Twitter.
- People aged 55-64 are more than twice as likely to engage with branded content than those 28 or younger.

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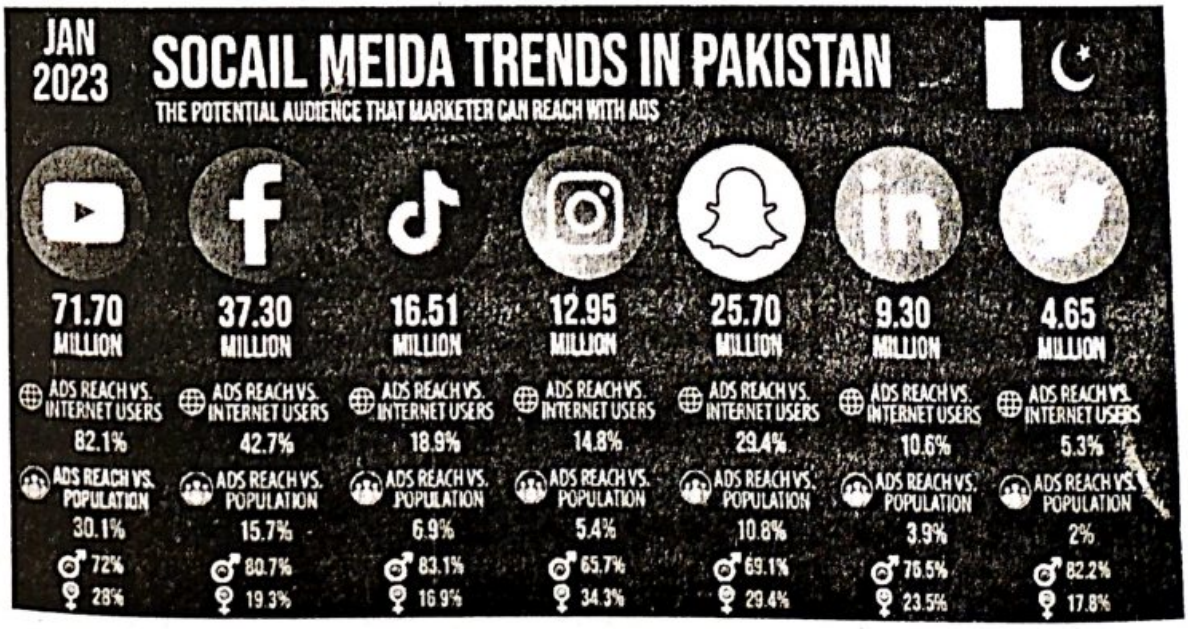
- 96 percent of the people that discuss brands online do not follow those brands' owned profiles.
- 78 percent of people who complain to a brand via Twitter expect a response within an hour.

SOCIAL VIDEO STATISTICS

- Facebook now sees 8 billion average daily video views from 500 million users.
- Snapchat users also sees 8 billion average daily video views.
- US adults spend an average of 1 hour, 16 minutes each day watching video on digital devices.
- Also in the US, there were 175.4 million people watching digital video content.
- 78 percent of people watch online videos every week, 55% watch every day.
- 51 percent of internet users watch vlogs.

CONTENT STATISTICS

- On WordPress alone, 70 million blog posts are published every month.
- The top 3 content marketing tactics are social media content (83%), blogs (80%), and email newsletters (77%).



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (UNITED NATIONS)

GOAL 1

No Poverty

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between 1990 and 2015, too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs.

GOAL 2

Zero Hunger

The number of undesrnourished people has dropped by almost half in the past two decades because of rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity. Many developing countries that used to suffer from famine and hunger can now meet their nutritional needs. Central and East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have all made huge progress in eradicating extreme hunger.

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GOAL 3

Good Health and Well-being

We have made great progress against several leading causes of death and disease. Life expectancy has increased dramatically; infant and maternal mortality rates have declined, we've turned the tide on HIV and malaria deaths have halved.

GOAL 4

Quality Education

Since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. The total enrolment rate in developing regions reached 91 percent in 2015, and the worldwide number of children out of school has dropped by almost half. There has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and many more girls are in school than ever before. These are all remarkable successes.

GOAL 5

Gender Equality

Ending all discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, it's crucial for sustainable future; it's proven that empowering women and girls helps economic growth and development.

GOAL 6

Clean Water and Sanitation

Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people, an alarming figure that is projected to rise as temperatures do. Although 2.1 billion people have improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling drinking water supplies are affecting every continent.

GOAL 7

Affordable and Clean Energy

Between 2000 and 2018, the number of people with electricity increased from 78 to 90 percent, and the numbers without electricity dipped to 789 million.

Yet as the population continues to grow, so will the demand for cheap energy, and an economy reliant on fossil fuels is creating drastic changes to our climate.

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GOAL 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Over the past 25 years the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined dramatically, despite the lasting impact of the 2008 economic crisis and global recession. In developing countries, the middle class now makes up more than 34 percent of total employment – a number that has almost tripled between 1991 and 2015.

GOAL 9

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Investment in infrastructure and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. With over half the world population now living in cities, mass transport and renewable energy are becoming ever more important, as are the growth of new industries and information and communication technologies.

GOAL 10

Reduced Inequalities

Income inequality is on the rise—the richest 10 percent have up to 40 percent of global income whereas the poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 to 7 percent. If we take into account population growth inequality in developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 percent.

GOAL 11

Sustainable Cities and Communities

More than half of us live in cities. By 2050, two-thirds of all humanity—6.5 billion people—will be urban. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.

GOAL 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use.

GOAL 13

Climate Action

There is no country that is not experiencing the drastic effects of climate

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change. Greenhouse gas emissions are more than 50 percent higher than in 1990. Global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act.

GOAL 14

Life Below Water

The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. How we manage this vital resource is essential for humanity as a whole, and to counterbalance the effects of climate change.

GOAL 15

Life on Land

Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of the human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resources. Forests cover 30 percent of the Earth's surface, provide vital habitats for millions of species, and important sources for clean air and water, as well as being crucial for combating climate change.

GOAL 16

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

We cannot hope for sustainable development without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law. Yet our world is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is not inevitable and must be addressed.

GOAL 17

Partnerships for the Goals

The SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation. Official Development Assistance remained steady but below target, at US$147 billion in 2017. While humanitarian crises brought on by conflict or natural disasters continue to demand more financial resources and aid. Many countries also require Official Development Assistance to encourage growth and trade.

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UNITED NATIONS STRUCTURE AND SUBSIDIARIES

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization aiming to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. It is the world's largest and most familiar international organization. The UN is headquartered on international territory in New York City and has other main offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, and The Hague.

UNITED NATIONS STRUCTURE

The main bodies of the United Nations are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. All were established under the UN Charter when the Organization was founded in 1945.

Principal Organs of the United Nations

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Law & Beyond
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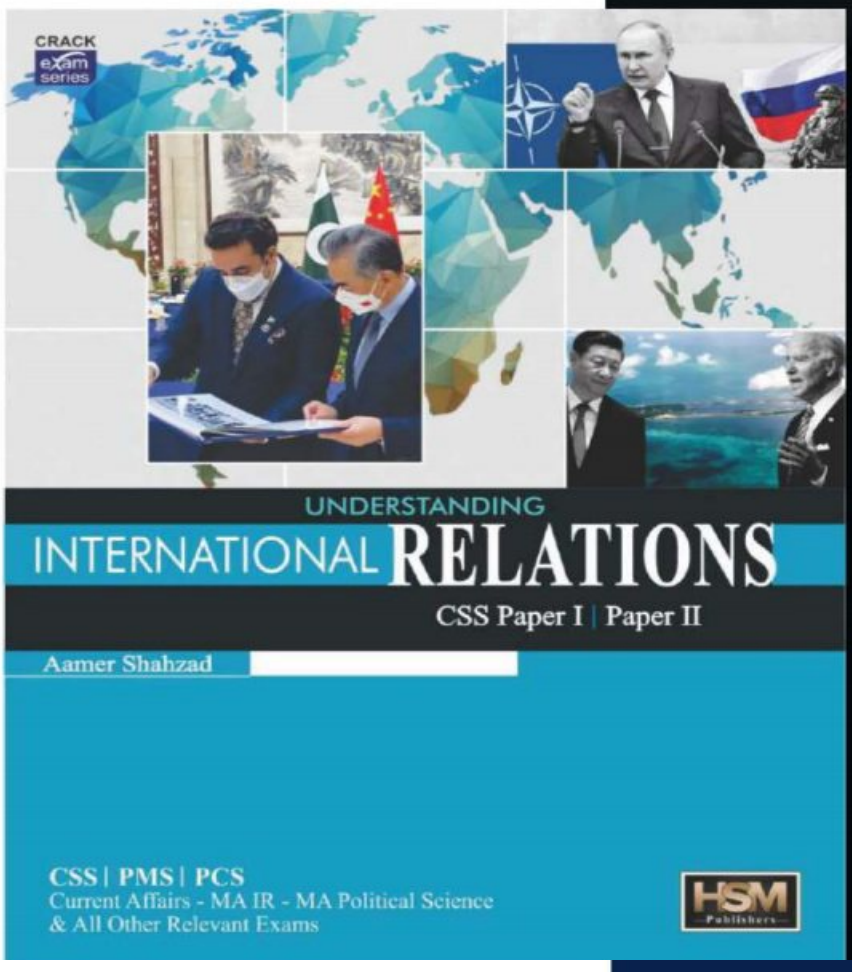

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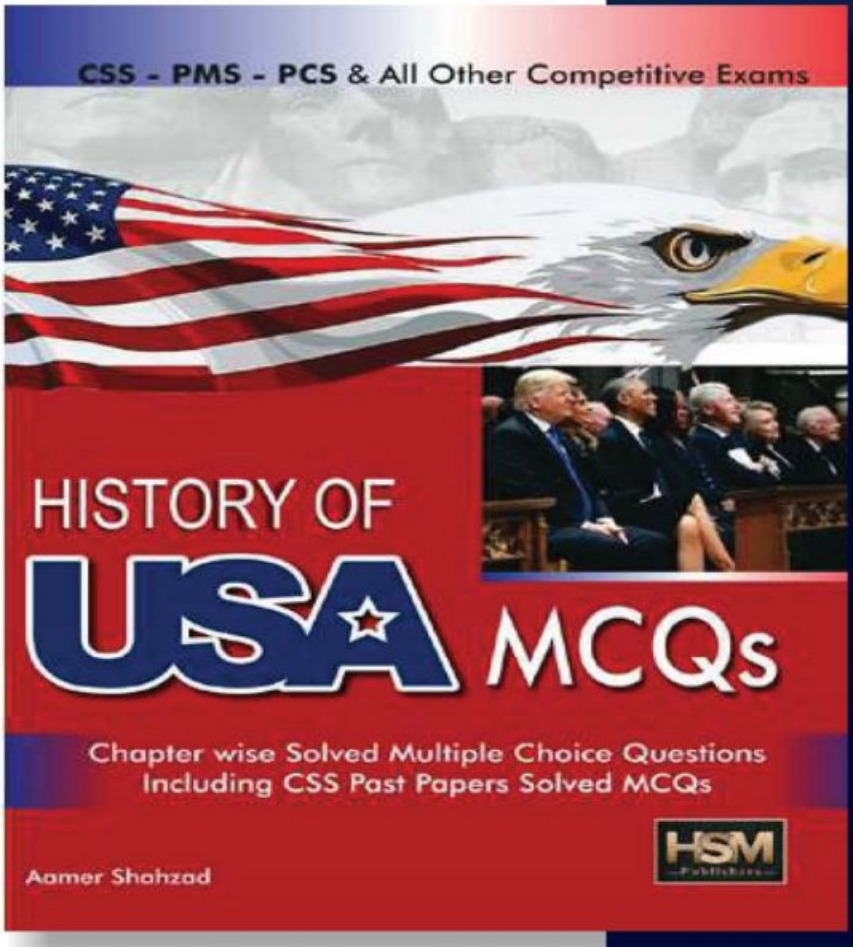

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 member states of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. Each year, in September, the full UN membership meets in the General Assembly Hall in New York for the annual General Assembly session, and general debate, which many heads of state attend and address. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and budgetary matters, require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly. Decisions on other questions are by simple majority. The General Assembly, each year, elects a GA president to serve a one-year term of office.

SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 members (5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members). Each member has one vote. Under the Charter, all member states are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council has a presidency, which rotates, and changes, every month.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The Economic and Social Council is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals. It serves as the central mechanism for activities of the UN system and its specialized agencies in the economic, social and environmental fields, supervising subsidiary and expert bodies. It has 54 members, elected by the General Assembly for overlapping three-year term. It is the United Nations' central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

The Trusteeship Council was established in 1945 by the UN Charter, under Chapter XIII, to provide international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven member states, and ensure that

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adequate steps were taken to prepare the Territories for self-government and independence. By 1994, all Trust Territories had attained self-government or independence. The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on November 1, 1994. By a resolution adopted on May 25, 1994, the Council amended its rules of procedure to drop the obligation to meet annually and agreed to meet as occasion required -- by its decision or the decision of its president, or at the request of a majority of its members or the General Assembly or the Security Council.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its seat is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). It is the only one of the six principal organs of the United Nations not located in New York (United States of America). The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies. The International Court of Justice functions in accordance with its Statute.

SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat comprises the secretary-general and tens of thousands of international UN staff members who carry out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal bodies. The secretary-general is Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term. The secretary-general is also a symbol of the Organization's ideals, and an advocate for all the world's peoples, especially the poor and vulnerable.

UN STAFF RECRUITMENT

UN staff members are recruited internationally and locally, and work in duty stations and on peacekeeping missions all around the world. But serving the cause of peace in a violent world is a dangerous occupation. Since the founding of the United Nations, hundreds of brave men and women have given their lives in its service.

UNITED NATIONS SUBSIDIARIES

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution states its main objective as "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health."

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UNICEF

UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children's Fund, is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. The agency is among the most widespread and recognizable social welfare organizations in the world, with a presence in 192 countries and territories.

UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is a specialised agency of the United Nations aimed at promoting world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the arts, the sciences, and culture.

UNFAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security. Its Latin motto, *fiat panis*, translates to "let there be bread". It was founded in October 1945.

WORLD BANK

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects.

UNHCR

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a UN agency mandated to aid and protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, and to assist in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

ILO

The International Labour Organization is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards. Founded in October 1919 under the League of Nations, it is the first and oldest specialized agency of the UN.

World Food Programme

The World Food Programme is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization, the largest one focused on hunger and food security, and the largest provider of school meals. Founded in 1961, it is headquartered in Rome and has offices in 80 countries.

UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme is responsible for

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coordinating responses to environmental issues within the United Nations system. It was established by Maurice Strong, its first director, after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in June 1972.

UN Women

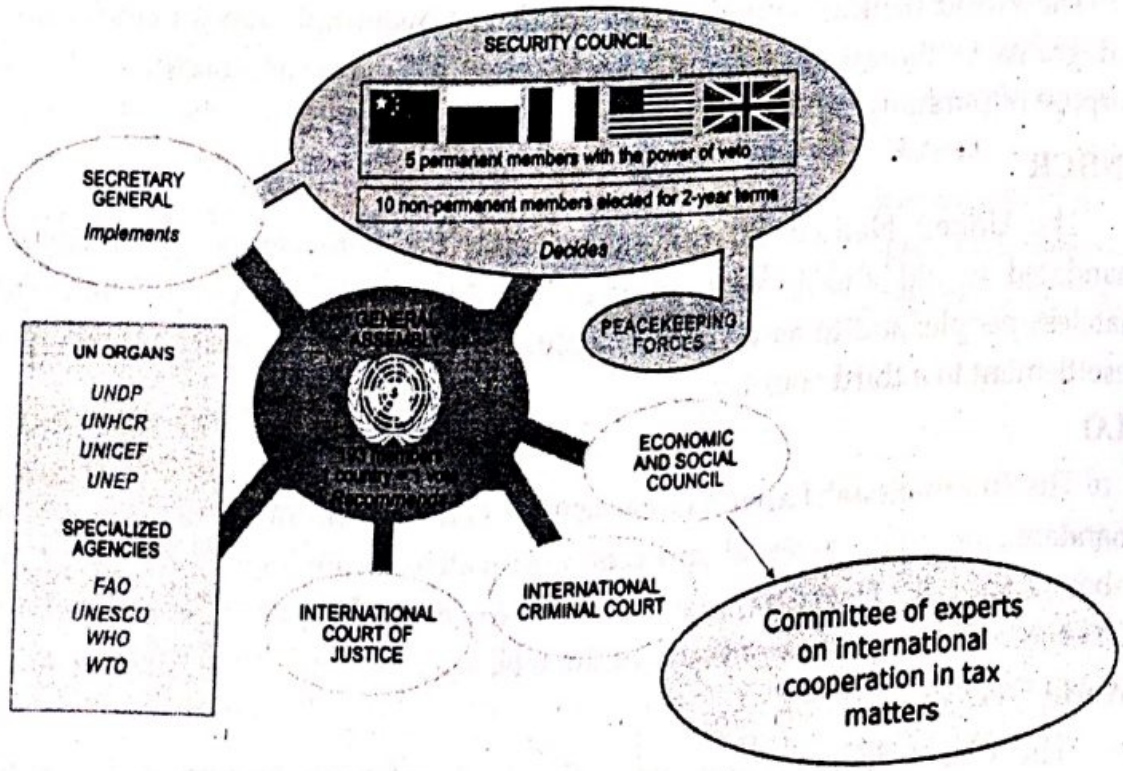
The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as UN Women, is a United Nations entity working for the empowerment of women. UN Women became operational in January 2011.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

The United Nations Population Fund, formerly the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, is a UN agency aimed at improving reproductive and maternal health worldwide.

UNWTO

The World Tourism Organization is the United Nations specialized agency entrusted with the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, having its headquarters in Madrid, Spain.



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TECHNOLOGY

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

AI Market Growth

- 2023: The global AI market was valued at $142.3 billion.
- 2024: Projected to grow to $164 billion.

Source: Gartner, Statista.

AI Adoption

- 2023: 70% of organizations worldwide reported using some form of AI technology.
- 2024: Expected to rise to 80%.

Source: McKinsey Global Survey.

AI in Healthcare

- 2023: AI applications in healthcare reached a market size of $11.4 billion.
- 2024: Forecasted to grow to $13.2 billion.

Source: Allied Market Research.

INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT)

Connected Devices

- 2023: Over 14.4 billion IoT devices were connected worldwide.
- 2024: Expected to increase to 18 billion.

Source: IoT Analytics.

IoT Market Value:

- 2023: The IoT market was valued at $202 billion.
- 2024: Projected to reach $253 billion.

Source: Statista.

CLOUD COMPUTING

Cloud Services Market

- 2023: The global cloud services market reached $482 billion.
- 2024: Anticipated to grow to $592 billion.

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Source: Gartner.

Public Cloud Adoption

- 2023: 94% of enterprises reported using at least one public cloud service.
- 2024: Expected to reach 97%.

Source: Flexera 2023 State of the Cloud Report.

CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity Spending

- 2023: Global spending on cybersecurity was $188.3 billion.
- 2024: Projected to rise to $211.7 billion.

Source: Gartner.

Data Breaches:

- 2023: Over 2,200 data breaches were reported, exposing more than 2 billion records.
- 2024: Expected to see a similar or higher number of incidents.

Source: Identity Theft Resource Center.

5G TECHNOLOGY

5G Connections

- 2023: There were over 1.5 billion 5G connections globally.
- 2024: Expected to exceed 2 billion.

Source: GSMA.

5G Market Size

- 2023: The global 5G market was valued at $75 billion.
- 2024: Predicted to grow to $89 billion.

Source: Grand View Research.

E-COMMERCE

E-commerce Sales

- 2023: Global e-commerce sales reached $5.2 trillion.
- 2024: Expected to increase to $5.7 trillion.

Source: eMarketer.

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Mobile Commerce

- 2023: Mobile commerce accounted for 72% of e-commerce sales.
- 2024: Projected to rise to 75%.

  Source: Statista.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media Users

- 2023: There were 4.9 billion social media users worldwide.
- 2024: Expected to grow to 5.1 billion.

  Source: Hootsuite, We Are Social.

Time Spent on Social Media

- 2023: Average daily time spent on social media was 2 hours and 31 minutes.
- 2024: Predicted to increase slightly to 2 hours and 34 minutes.

  Source: DataReportal.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

Self-Driving Car Market

- 2023: The autonomous vehicle market was valued at $54 billion.
- 2024: Forecasted to grow to $64 billion.

  Source: Allied Market Research.

Level 4 and 5 Autonomy

- 2023: Limited deployments of Level 4 autonomous vehicles in select cities.
- 2024: Expansion of Level 4 and pilot programs for Level 5 autonomy in more regions.

  Source: McKinsey & Company.

RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Renewable Energy Capacity

- 2023: Global renewable energy capacity reached 3,372 GW.
- 2024: Expected to increase to 3,540 GW.

  Source: International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Solar Energy

- 2023: Solar energy installations accounted for 175 GW of new capacity.

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- 2024: Projected to add another 200 GW.

Source: IRENA.

QUANTUM COMPUTING

Quantum Computing Market

- 2023: The quantum computing market was valued at $1.4 billion.
- 2024: Expected to grow to $1.8 billion.

Source: MarketsandMarkets.

Quantum Research

- 2023: Significant breakthroughs in quantum supremacy and error correction.
- 2024: Continued advancements, with more practical applications emerging.

Source: Nature, MIT Technology Review.

A

1. Over 77% small businesses use Facebook to generate revenue: report
2. There are over 570 websites created every minute adding up to a total almost 1.8 billion websites since 1991.
3. Google gathers over 3.5 billion searches per day and up to 1.2 trillion searches per year.
4. Over 90% of the world's data were created only in the last couple of years.
5. The worldwide spending on technology has reached $3.4 billion. This is based on every household and business spending money on new gadgets and tech, including phones, tablets, computers, and more.
6. Because of COVID-19, 76% of businesses are planning on long-term IT changes.
7. 34% of people map out their "to-do lists" on paper. Only 22% use online tools, 18% use a calendar on their phones, 17% use project management systems, and the last 9% use other methods.
8. The percentage of remote workers in the United States jumped from 31% to 62% in just three weeks because of the Covid-19 pandemic. That is double the amount of the previous number.
9. 6 out of 10 students have used a digital textbook.

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B

10. Over 44 million students or 96 percent of public schools have computers and access to the internet.
11. Businesses will increase their cloud-based services and decrease their hardware spending in 2021.
12. 44 percent of businesses are planning or already accelerated their digital transformation, due to COVID-19.
13. 30 percent of businesses plan to develop training campaigns for hiring and training remote employees.
14. 32 percent of businesses plan to connect their employees using secure, standardized, and easy-to-use platforms.
15. As of 2020, an estimated 3.6 billion people are using social media in the entire world.
16. It is projected that worldwide social media usage would increase to almost 4.41 billion by 2025.
17. The Total amount of data has reached 59 zettabytes in 2020.
18. 63 percent of the population has missed a message or important information that went into another colleague's inbox when that person was away on vacation or absent.
19. 74 percent of potential or existing clients stop dealing with a company or firm because of disorganization. These customers tend to move to their direct competitors.

C

20. 92 percent of the people had to repeat a piece of information to two or more people in an organization.
21. In an organization, 85 percent of the people find it annoying when having to repeat information when working with other businesses.
22. 95 percent of people think that those businesses they deal with could improve their communication and management.
23. Leadership communication is the top internal communication factor that correlates to engaged employees statistically.
24. Corporate employees spend 25 percent of their workday doing various email-related tasks.
25. 4 out of 5 employees believe that better internal business communications help their performance.
26. One of the biggest challenges of working with remote employees is the language barrier.
27. 60 percent of companies do not have any long-term plans and strategies for internal communication.

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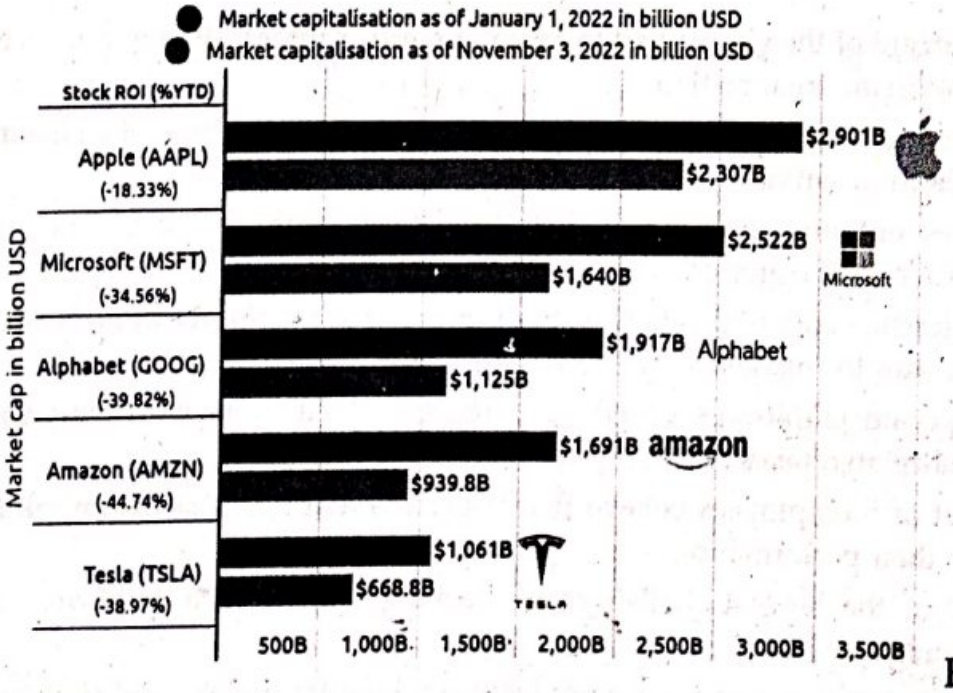
28. Based on all the communications statistics on this list, good communication almost always leads to the betterment of the company and the performance of the employees.
29. 61 percent of companies are planning to switch to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone systems in the next few years.

D

30. An average internet user spends 6 hours and 42 minutes on the internet on a daily basis.
31. 48 percent of internet browsing is spent on a mobile device like a smartphone or tablet.
32. There are 3,511.41 secure internet servers in one million people globally.
33. The average cost of a malware attack on companies is 2.4 million dollars.
34. The average time to resolve a malicious attack is 50 days.
35. Security breaches average at 130 each year.
36. There are 615 million devices equipped with ad blockers globally, and 90 percent of those devices are from people in Asia, based on the reports.
37. 80 percent of Americans use at least one ad-blocking method, whether it is an app or something on the phone settings. In North America, 50 percent of the entire adult population uses two ad blockers for their devices.
38. People use ad blockers because of irrelevant and annoying ads, and the penetration rate is now at 27 percent in 2017 and projected to double in the following years.



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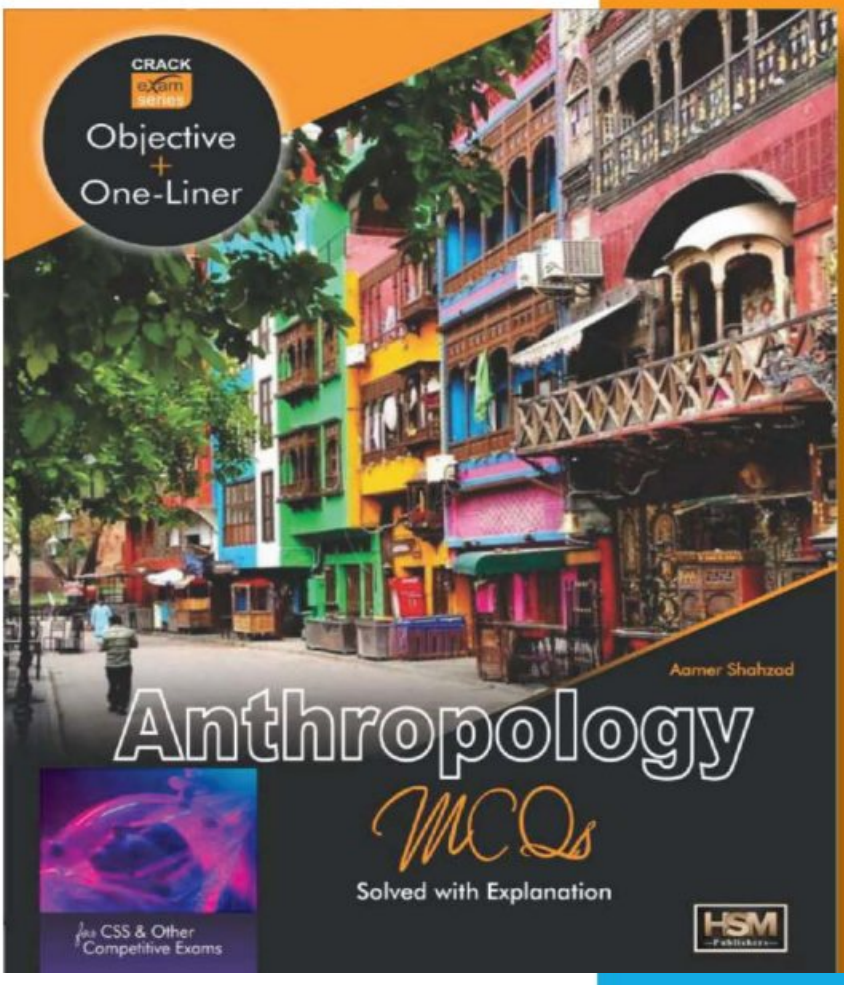

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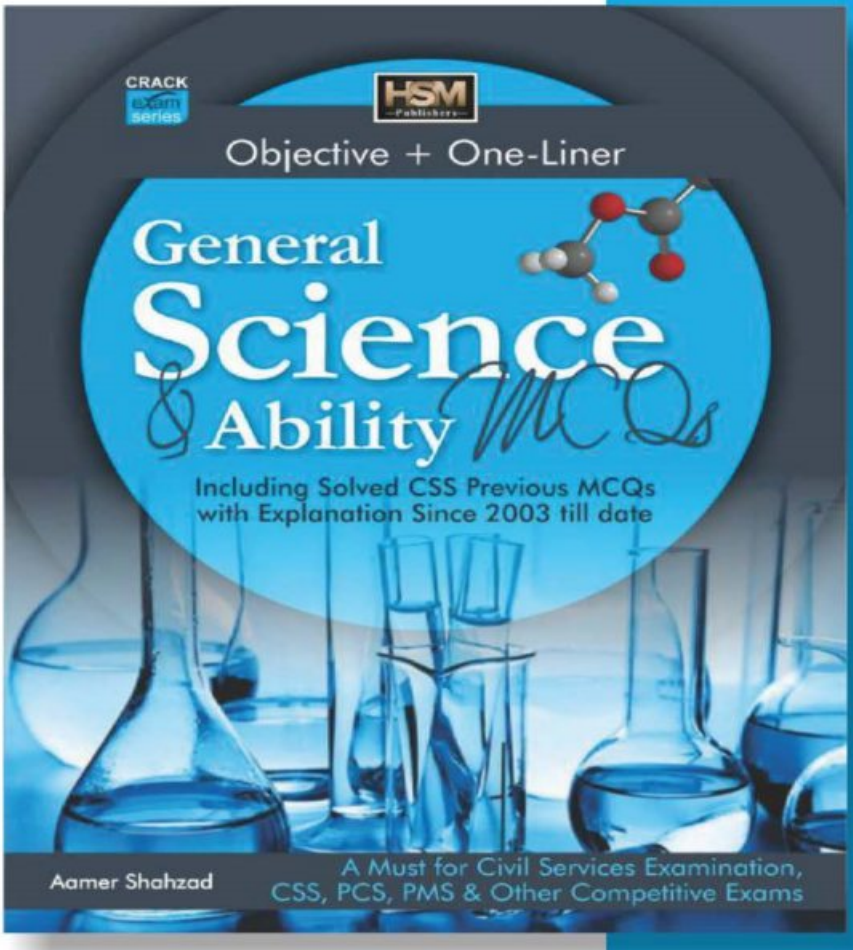

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TOURISM

GLOBAL TOURISM IN 2023

1. **Post-Pandemic Recovery**: Global tourism rebounded significantly in 2023, with international tourist arrivals reaching 1.3 billion, up 45% from 2022.

   Source: UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

2. **Top Destinations**: The most visited countries were France, Spain, and the USA, collectively receiving over 300 million tourists.

   Source: World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

3. **Economic Impact**: Tourism contributed $9.3 trillion to the global economy, representing 10.4% of global GDP.

   Source: WTTC.

4. **Employment**: The tourism sector supported 330 million jobs worldwide, accounting for 10% of global employment.

   Source: UNWTO.

5. **Sustainable Tourism**: There was a 20% increase in eco-tourism activities, reflecting a growing trend towards sustainable travel.

   Source: International Ecotourism Society (IES).

6. **Digital Nomads**: The number of digital nomads grew by 25%, with countries like Portugal, Estonia, and Thailand becoming popular destinations.

   Source: Remote Year.

7. **Air Travel**: Global air passenger traffic reached 4.2 billion, an increase of 38% from 2022, indicating a robust recovery.

   Source: International Air Transport Association (IATA).

8. **Cruise Industry**: The cruise industry welcomed 30 million passengers, recovering 70% of pre-pandemic levels.

   Source: Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA).

9. **Travel Restrictions**: Most countries lifted COVID-19 travel restrictions, but 15% still maintained some form of entry requirements.

   Source: UNWTO.

10. **Travel Spending**: International tourists spent $1.5 trillion, with an average expenditure of $1,150 per trip.

    Source: WTTC.

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Global Tourism in 2024 (Projections)

1. **Continued Growth**: International tourist arrivals are projected to reach 1.5 billion, a 15% increase from 2023.

   Source: UNWTO.

2. **Economic Contribution**: Tourism is expected to contribute $10 trillion to the global economy, maintaining its 10% share of global GDP.

   Source: WTTC.

3. **Sustainable Practices**: A further increase in sustainable tourism is anticipated, with eco-tourism activities expected to grow by 25%.

   Source: IES.

4. **Travel Technology**: The adoption of AI and digital solutions in travel planning and customer service is set to rise by 30%.

   Source: Phocuswright.

5. **New Destinations**: Emerging destinations like Uzbekistan, Georgia, and Rwanda are forecasted to see a 50% increase in tourist arrivals.

   Source: Lonely Planet.

6. **Health and Safety**: 80% of travellers will prioritize destinations with strong health and safety protocols.

   Source: Expedia.

7. **Remote Work**: The digital nomad trend will continue to grow, with a 20% increase in remote work visas issued by countries.

   Source: Remote Year.

8. **Domestic Tourism**: Domestic tourism will remain strong, accounting for 60% of total travel expenditures.

   Source: WTTC.

9. **Cultural Tourism**: There is expected to be a 30% increase in cultural tourism, driven by interest in local traditions and heritage sites.

   Source: UNESCO.

10. **Digital Transformation**: Over 70% of travel bookings will be made online, reflecting a shift towards digital platforms.

    Source: Phocuswright.

Regional Insights

Europe

- 2023: Europe remained the most visited region, with 710 million international arrivals.
- 2024: Arrivals are expected to increase to 770 million, driven by the recovery of the UK, Italy, and Greece.

Source: European Travel Commission (ETC).

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Asia-Pacific

- 2023: Asia-Pacific saw 360 million tourist arrivals, a significant recovery from previous years.
- 2024: Arrivals are projected to reach 420 million, with strong growth in Japan, Indonesia, and Vietnam.
- Source: Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

Americas

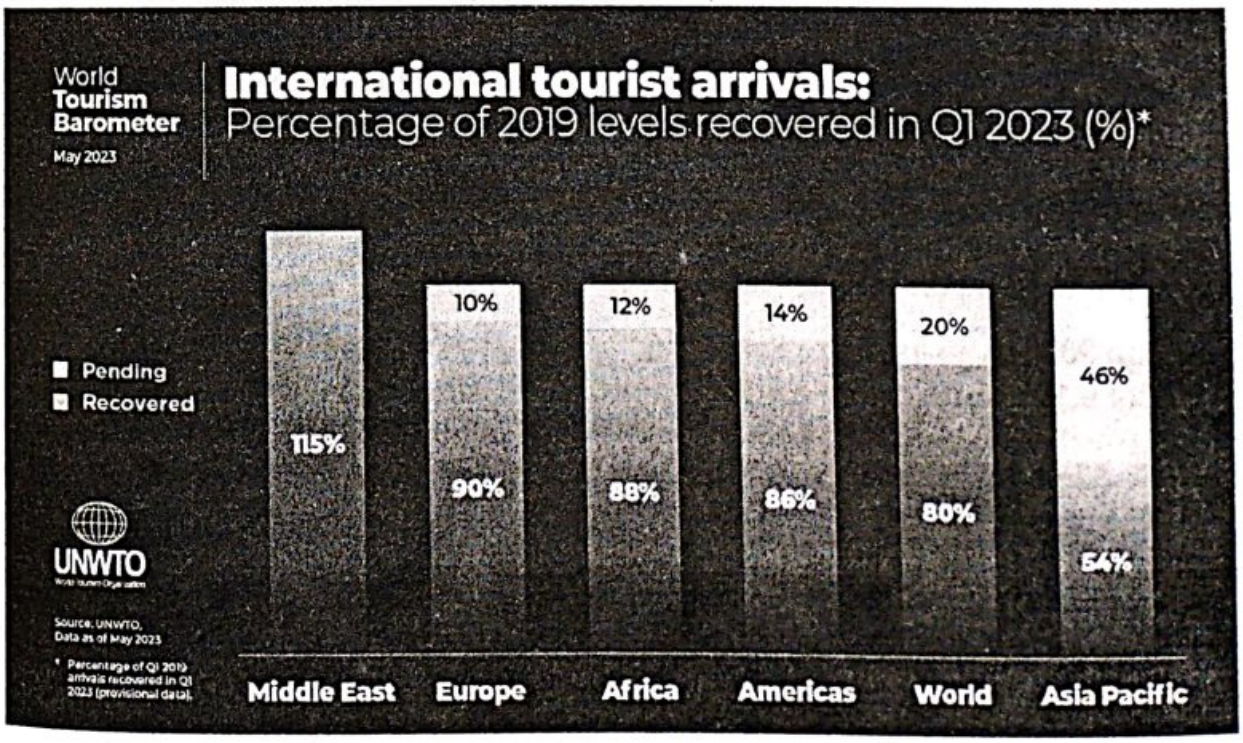
- 2023: The Americas welcomed 270 million tourists, with the USA, Mexico, and Brazil being top destinations.
- 2024: Tourism is expected to grow by 12%, with 300 million arrivals forecasted.
- Source: WTTC.

Middle East

- 2023: The Middle East experienced a 50% increase in tourist arrivals, reaching 70 million.
- 2024: Growth is projected to continue, with 85 million arrivals expected.
- Source: UNWTO.

Africa

- 2023: Africa received 60 million tourists, showing a steady recovery.
- 2024: Tourist arrivals are expected to increase to 75 million, driven by interest in wildlife and cultural heritage.
- Source: African Tourism Board (ATB).



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WAR ON TERROR AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

War on terrorism, term used to describe the American-led global counterterrorism campaign launched in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In its scope, expenditure, and impact on international relations, the war on terrorism was comparable to the Cold War; it was intended to represent a new phase in global political relations and has had important consequences for security, human rights, international law, cooperation, and governance.

A

1. TTP still active with up to 5,000 fighters: UN
2. According to the 29th report of the UN's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, the first since the momentous development in Afghanistan, the country once again "has the potential to become a safe haven for Al Qaeda and a number of terror groups with ties to the Central Asia region and beyond."
3. According to the UN, over 377,000 people have died due to the conflict in Yemen – 70pc of them children.
4. 2,000 children recruited by Yemen's rebels died fighting: UN
5. A report from the costs of war project at Brown University revealed that 20 years of post-9/11 wars have cost the US an estimated $8 trillion and have killed more than 900,000 people.
6. Brown University researchers estimated would be over $300 million a day for 20 years on US-led war on terror.
7. In 2020, Afghanistan ranked first on the global terrorism index with a score of 9.59 points, making it the country most affected by terrorism on Earth. In conclusion, with the ranking, Afghanistan suffered from the most terrorist attacks in 2019, with 1,750 attacks and the most fatalities from terrorist attacks, with 9,681.
8. The costs of war project's latest estimates hold that 897,000 to 929,000 people have been killed during the wars.
9. In 2017, an estimated 26,445 people died from terrorism globally.
10. The economic costs tallied by the costs of war report include $2.3 trillion spent by the US government on military operations in Afghanistan and

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Pakistan, $2.1 trillion in Iraq and Syria, and $355 billion in Somalia and other regions of Africa. An additional $1.1 trillion has been spent on domestic security measures in the United States since 2001, bringing direct expenditures from the war on terror at home and abroad to an astronomical $5.8 trillion.

B

11. Over the past decade, terrorists killed an average of 21,000 people worldwide each year.
12. The global death toll from terrorism over the past decade ranged from 8,000 in 2010 to a high of 44,000 in 2014.
13. In 2017, terrorism was responsible for 0.05 percent of global deaths.
14. Terrorism tends to be very geographically-focused: 95 percent of deaths in 2017 occurred in the Middle East, Africa or South Asia.
15. In most countries terrorism accounts for less than 0.01 percent of deaths, but in countries of high-conflict, this can be as much as several percent.
16. Airline hijackings were once common but are very rare today.
17. Public concern about terrorism is high – in many countries more than half say they are concerned about being a victim.
18. Media coverage of terrorism is often disproportionate to its frequency and share of deaths.

DISTINGUISHING TERRORISM FROM OTHER FORMS OF VIOLENCE

Based on the criteria above, we can begin to separate terrorism from other types of violence based on some very simplified distinctions:

- Killings perpetrated by non-State actors against civilians, which are not ideological in nature, i.e. not motivated by a particular political, economic or social goal, are classified as homicide.
- Violence perpetrated by non-State actors against civilians, specifically based on ethnicity, sexuality, gender, or disability, without political or social intent to cause widespread fear, is classified as a hate crime.
- Violence involving open combat between opposing armed forces is classified as state-based armed conflict, if at least one of the parties is the government of a State.
- If, in the scenario above, none of the parties is the government of a State, this is classified as a non-State conflict.
- Violence perpetrated by governments against civilians is classified as one sided violence.

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PALESTINE ISSUE: FACTS AND FIGURES

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

UN Resolutions

- 2023: Multiple UN resolutions were passed reaffirming the rights of the Palestinian people and calling for an end to the occupation.
- 2024: Continued international pressure through UN resolutions, urging both parties to return to negotiations.

Source: United Nations General Assembly.

Peace Talks

- 2023: Intermittent peace talks facilitated by Egypt and Jordan, but no significant breakthroughs.
- 2024: Renewed efforts for peace talks with increased involvement from the European Union and United States.

Source: Al Jazeera, Reuters.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Gaza Blockade

- 2023: The blockade of Gaza persisted, severely restricting the movement of people and goods.
- 2024: Slight easing of restrictions reported, but the blockade remains largely in place.

Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Casualties

- 2023: Over 300 Palestinians and 20 Israelis were reported killed in various clashes and military operations.
- 2024: Early reports indicate continued violence with over 150 Palestinians and 10 Israelis killed by mid-year.

Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW), Palestinian Ministry of Health.

Displacement

- 2023: Approximately 50,000 Palestinians were displaced due to home demolitions and military operations.

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- 2024: Ongoing displacement with an additional 20,000 Palestinians reported displaced in the first half of the year.

Source: OCHA.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Unemployment Rate

- 2023: Unemployment in Gaza reached 47%, and in the West Bank, it was 18%.
- 2024: Unemployment rates show slight improvement, with Gaza at 45% and the West Bank at 16%.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).

Aid Dependency

- 2023: Over 80% of Gaza's population relied on international aid.
- 2024: Aid dependency remains high, with 78% of Gaza's population requiring assistance.

Source: United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Access to Education

- 2023: Approximately 60% of schools in Gaza were operating on double shifts due to overcrowding and resource constraints.
- 2024: The situation remains critical, with 55% of schools still operating on double shifts.

Source: UNICEF.

Healthcare

- 2023: Healthcare services in Gaza were severely impacted, with 50% of essential drugs at zero stock.
- 2024: Shortages continue, with 48% of essential drugs at zero stock.

Source: World Health Organization (WHO).

Water and Sanitation

- 2023: 97% of Gaza's water was unfit for human consumption.
- 2024: Despite some international aid efforts, 95% of Gaza's water remains unfit for consumption.

Source: OCHA, UNICEF.

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INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Financial Aid

- 2023: International donors pledged $1.5 billion in aid to support Palestinian humanitarian needs.
- 2024: Pledges amount to $1.4 billion, reflecting ongoing but slightly decreased international commitment.

Source: UNRWA, OCHA.

Diplomatic Efforts

- 2023: Increased diplomatic efforts by the European Union, including sanctions on entities contributing to settlement expansions.
- 2024: Continuation of diplomatic pressure with new initiatives aimed at supporting a two-state solution.

Source: European Union External Action.

SETTLEMENTS AND LAND ISSUES

Settlement Expansion

- 2023: Over 5,000 new settler homes were approved in the West Bank.
- 2024: Early reports indicate approval for an additional 3,000 settler homes.

Source: Peace Now.

Land Confiscation

- 2023: 3,000 hectares of Palestinian land were reported confiscated for settlement and military use.
- 2024: Continued land confiscations, with 1,500 hectares reported by mid-year.

Source: B'Tselem.

SECURITY AND MILITARY OPERATIONS

Military Raids

- 2023: Over 1,000 military raids were conducted in the West Bank, leading to numerous arrests and casualties.
- 2024: Military raids continue with over 500 reported by mid-year.

Source: Palestinian Prisoner Society (PPS).

Rocket Attacks

- 2023: Over 300 rockets were fired from Gaza into Israel, resulting in retaliatory strikes.

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- 2024: Rocket fire continues at a lower intensity with 150 rockets reported.

  Source: Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Detentions

- 2023: Approximately 4,500 Palestinians were held in Israeli prisons, including 200 minors.
- 2024: The number remains high with around 4,300 detained, including 180 minors.

  Source: Palestinian Prisoner Society (PPS).

Human Rights Violations

- 2023: Reports of human rights violations, including excessive use of force and collective punishment, continued to surface.
- 2024: Similar patterns of violations reported, with ongoing concerns from international human rights organizations.

  Source: Human Rights Watch (HRW), Amnesty International.

FACTS AND FIGURES RELATED TO THE HAMAS-ISRAEL CONFLICT

Key Events in 2023

- Major Escalation: A significant escalation occurred in May 2023, following tensions in East Jerusalem and Gaza. This included rocket attacks from Gaza and airstrikes by Israel.

  Source: Al Jazeera, BBC.
- **Ceasefire Agreements**: Multiple short-term ceasefires were brokered by Egypt and Qatar throughout the year, but most were short-lived.

  Source: Reuters, The New York Times.

  Source: Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), Haaretz.

DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

Displacement

- 2023: Over 100,000 Palestinians were displaced in Gaza due to the destruction of homes and infrastructure.

  Source: UNRWA, OCHA.

Humanitarian Aid

- 2023: International aid agencies reported severe shortages in medical supplies, food, and clean water in Gaza.

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Source: International Red Cross, WHO.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Economic Damage

- 2023: The conflict caused significant economic damage in Gaza, with estimated losses exceeding $500 million due to infrastructure destruction.

  Source: World Bank.

Reconstruction Needs

- 2023: UN estimates suggested that $1.5 billion would be required for the immediate reconstruction of Gaza.

  Source: UNRWA, World Bank.

MILITARY AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENTS

Rocket Attacks

- 2023: Hamas in Gaza fired over 5,000 rockets into Israel, targeting major cities including Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

  Source: Al Jazeera.

Iron Dome

- 2023: Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system intercepted approximately 90% of the incoming rockets, minimizing casualties and damage.

  Source: Middle East Watch

Ground Operations

- 2023: Israel conducted multiple ground operations targeting Hamas tunnels and infrastructure in Gaza.

  Source: BBC.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Condemnations and Calls for Peace

- 2023: The United Nations and various countries called for immediate ceasefires and resumption of peace talks.

  Source: UN, EU.

Sanctions and Aid

- 2023: Some countries increased sanctions on Hamas, while others sent humanitarian aid to Gaza.

  Source: Reuters, Al Jazeera.

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LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS

Political Impact

- 2023: The conflict further polarized political landscapes in both Israel and Palestine, with hardline factions gaining more support.

  Source: The Guardian, Haaretz.

Peace Process

- 2023: Efforts to restart the peace process remained stalled, with significant distrust between the parties.

  Source: UN, Reuters.

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INTERNATIONAL TREATIES SIGNED BY PAKISTAN

BILATERAL TREATIES

Indus Waters Treaty

- Country: India
- Year: 1960

Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation

- Country: China
- Year: 1963

Transit Trade Agreement

- Country: Afghanistan
- Year: 1965 (original), 2010 (revised)

Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- Country: China
- Year: 2006

Bilateral Investment Treaty

- Country: Germany
- Year: 1959

Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation

- Country: Turkey
- Year: 1988

Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement

- Country: Iran
- Year: 2004

Defence Cooperation Agreement

- Country: Saudi Arabia
- Year: 1982

Strategic Partnership Agreement

- Country: United States

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- Year: 2009

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

- Country: Malaysia
- Year: 2007

MULTILATERAL TREATIES

United Nations Charter

- Year: 1945

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

- Year: 1996

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

- Year: 1990

Kyoto Protocol

- Year: 2005

Paris Agreement

- Year: 2016

World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement

- Year: 1995

South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) Agreement

- Year: 2004

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- Year: 2010

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

- Year: 2008

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Membership

- Year: 2017

REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter

- Year: 1985

ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA)

- Country: Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) members
- Year: 2003

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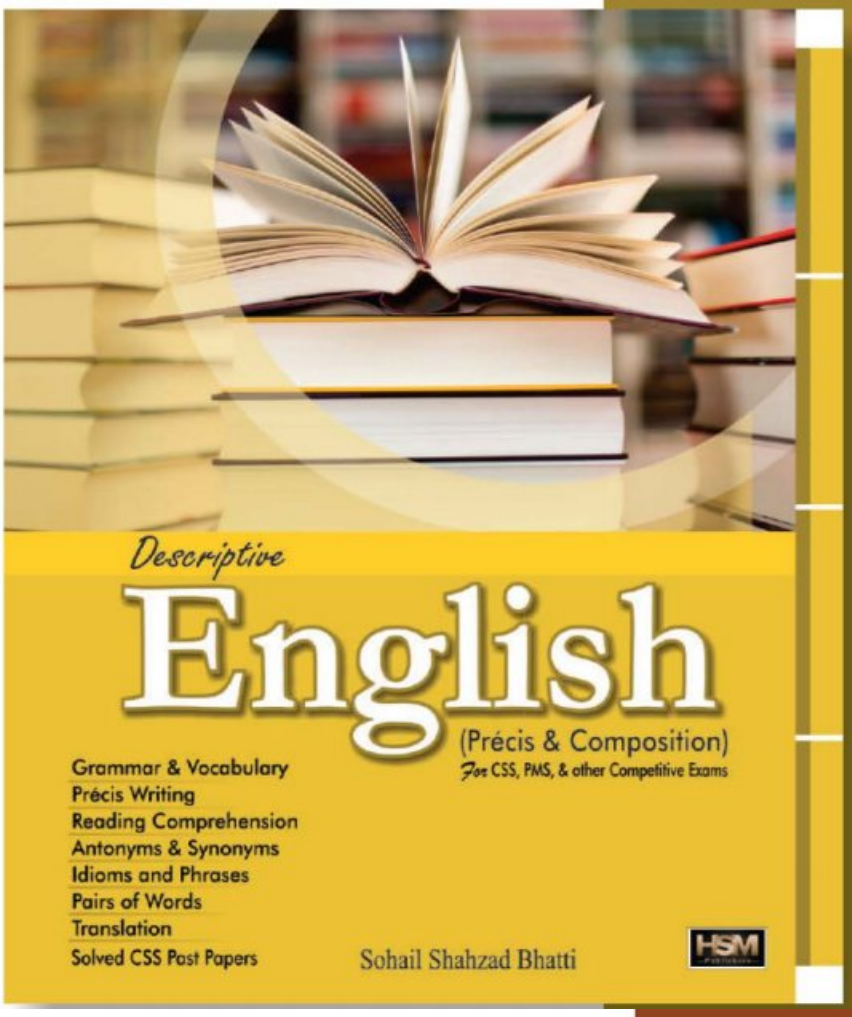

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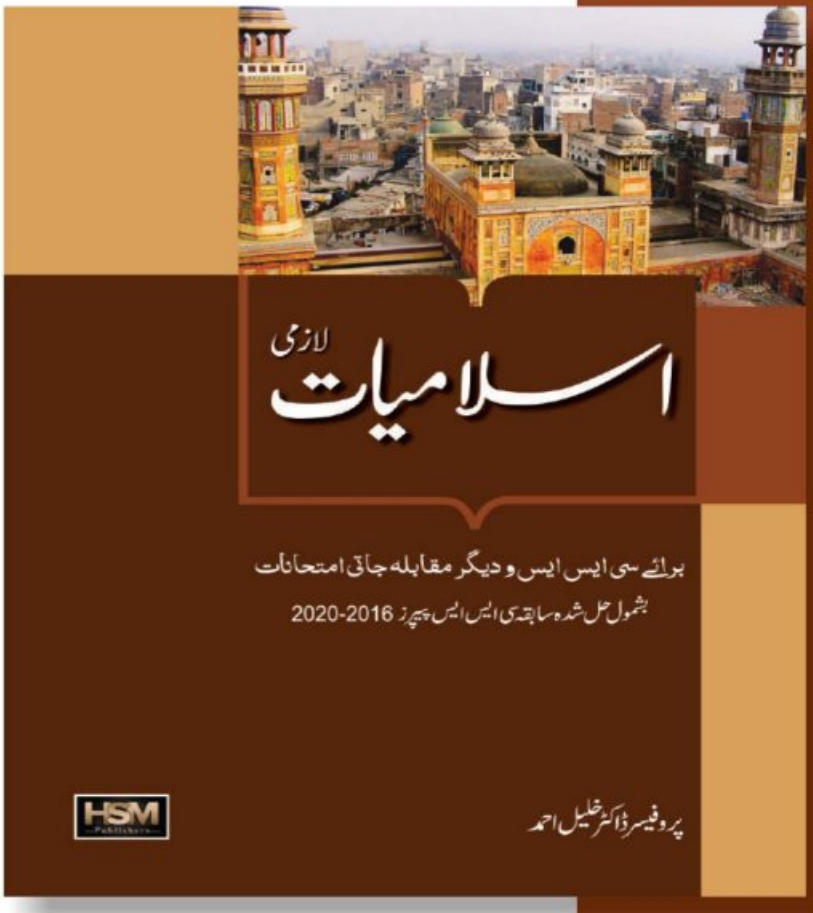

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Bilateral Security Agreement

- Country: Azerbaijan
- Year: 2004

Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty

- Country: UAE
- Year: 2007

Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Cooperation

- Country: Qatar
- Year: 2015

Transit Trade Agreement (TTA)

- Country: Kyrgyzstan
- Year: 1995

OTHER NOTABLE TREATIES

Agreement on Restoration of Air Services

- Country: Russia
- Year: 1995

Defence Cooperation Agreement

- Country: Italy
- Year: 2009

Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation

- Country: Sri Lanka
- Year: 1981

Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation

- Country: South Korea
- Year: 2003

Bilateral Air Services Agreement

- Country: United Kingdom
- Year: 1970

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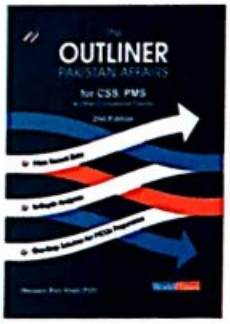
'About the Writer'

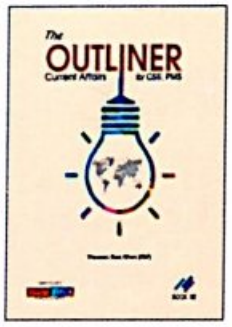
Waseem Riaz Khan is an SSP ranked Police Officer. Currently, he is serving as SSP Operations in Punjab. He holds graduate degree in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore. He secured 103rd position in CSS-2009 exam and was allocated to Pakistan Audit and Accounts Service. Later on, he reattempted the CSS exam in 2012 and secured 34th position in Pakistan, and was allocated to prestigious Police Service of Pakistan (PSP).

SSP Khan is the writer of book "The Fact Book" that is a valuable addition to his highly acknowledged and starred work on Current Affairs. The book provides latest and updated facts on contemporary issues. With its rich and diverse contents, it is oriented to satisfy the demands of thousands of aspirants appearing in CSS/PMS and other competitive examinations across Pakistan.

Want to know about the launch of the updated version of this book? Please visit author's Facebook page SSP Waseem Riaz Khan.

Author's Other Books





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